

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING.

By Bill Waggleweapon.

Foreword:

There were so many conferences during May that all the staff of the *Fruit World* was kept busy. Even the office boy, Bill Waggleweapon, despite his previous misdemeanours, was requisitioned for duty in reporting speeches.

We are getting very suspicious about Bill, in fact we're thinking of giving him a year's notice to quit. Delegates complain they don't see him at conferences, and yet he duly presents his "copy" to the Editor, and his bill for train fares and expenses. He never forgets the latter—never! He says he met Gerald Mussen, of the Citrus Association; Cook, the secretary; Bill Everard, M.L.A.; Pigott, M.H.A. (Tas.); W. J. Foster; S. J. Perry; E. J. Mulvany, of the Central Customs; Col. W. E. James, D.S.O.; R. Mair; and a lot of others.

Mussolini—Prince of Orange.

Cookium—His aide de camp.

Everardio—A Fighting Senator.

Pericles—A Merchant of Venice.

Mulvaniana—Chief Officer.

Fosterio—Yeoman and Trader.

Billyjames—A Colonel with a Nut.

Robbiemair—A Hielan' Chiel.

Pigiotti—A Gladiator.

SCENE—A Conference Room.

(Enter Mussolini, attendants, delegates.)

Muss. (singing): "Oranges and Lemons, The bells of St. Helens

Come hither good people and list to my tale."

Cook: The people all are here, Sire, what is your will?

Muss.: Now let us in grave conference sit,

To study out the problems that we face;

For our rich groves of golden citrus fruit

Do multiply exceedingly—yea and what to do

With all the blanky stuff I do not know. Do you?

Cook: Now spare me days, you've caught me on the hop,

But let me think, we'll send some fruit abroad,

Iceland, Greenland, as well as to the torrid zones

But as regards the local trade, these agents make me narked

Their charges are too high.

Muss.: We'll form a company, broad-based and strong,

Then with our Citrus men loyal and true

We'll lift the industry out of the rut.

Delegates: He speaketh words of wisdom.

(Exeunt)

(Enter Fosterio, Pigiotti, Mulvaniana and tribesmen from surrounding States.)

Fos.: Assemble all; Mulvaniana, blow ye the horn

And ask these jokers all to take their seats.

Del.: Here, half a tick, old sport, I want some pay

For I have humped my swag from far;

My orchard is near Carpentaria's Gulf Where gentle alligators swim and splash,

And I've worn out three pairs of boots

To come to the Advisory Board.

Fos.: We'll ask the Government to pay you boys

Next business, please; read the letters, Mul.

Del.: We want a pool for next year's fruit,

Let's ask the Government for it

(Cheers)

Fos.: Next please, come make your troubles known.

Pigot.: Yea, verily, sirs, will I respond and call

Thunder and forked lightning upon the wights

Who seek to make me grade my fruit by color.

We will not have it sirs, no; I say again

For you may strike me pink, if you desire,

But not our Apples.

Mul. (aside): What a fierce fellow; ah! he's better now

Del.: We'll ask the Government not to do it.

(Cheers)

Fos.: We want new markets for our fruit.

Del.: Then let us ask the Government for them;

They're good at finding things, taxes, sugar agreements

And such like joys. What about that Bureau?

Commerce and industry, 'tis called. Ah! that's it,

Let's ask 'em where the markets are and what they'll take.

(More cheers)

Mul.: We're getting on fine.

Fos.: Now, Mulvaniana, I command that with this quill

Ye do write letters as the Board directs.

Mul.: Yea, verily, I sit with bated breath and I will fly

With utmost speed to meet your every wish;

Command me gentle sirs, I'm yours for aye.

(Exeunt)

(Enter Billyjames, Everardio, Robbiemair and delegates; organgrinder, policeman and a stray dog.)

James: Company—'shun! form fours! quick march! halt!

"Bout wheel! Now stand at ease! (or sit)

And tell to me the purpose of this camp.

Del.: From North to South, from East to West

Of fair Victoria's lands we come To this convention, so that we can talk,

Pass our resolutions, and go home again.

James: Are your guns loaded? Then blaze away!

Ever.: Good-morrow, sirs, I give ye greeting

Kight glad am I to see the shops which sell the fruit

In Melbourne town, are open after dark, I only hope

That soon the suburbs, too, will follow suit.

Del.: Good old Bill.

Mair.: What happened to the Fruit Pool?

When they put

'Oor blushing Peaches into pulp for sale?

Oo, ay! the sugar was too dear to make the jam

An' so we tried to sell the pulp to farmers

To feed the piggies with. The farmers wouldna' tak' them. So we thoct

We'd sell them to the bonnie hoosewives.

(Shouts of Laughter)

Noo what's the matter with ye all, a-laughin'

Fit to crack yoo sides. ye're daft an feckless.

(Enter Pericles, Parnhamme and attendants.)

Per.: Good sirs, I've just returned from London town,

The people like your fruit, and want still more,

Good fruit, well graded, under the Commerce Act.

Why seek ye burdens for your back, new regulations

Hard to understand, increased inspection fees?

Del.: Methinks he speaketh sense.

(Exeunt)

SCENE 2—A Banqueting Hall.

(Enter Wadio, Pigiotti, delegates, attendants, conjurers, entertainers.)

(They feast)

Wadio.: Gentlemen, rise. The King!

All: The King! May heaven smile upon him.

Wadio.: Now that you're feasted and content

We will have words of wisdom from the men

Who grow the fruit and those who sell it.

Our interests are alike.

Pigot.: Good sirs, I blush, for I am modest and retiring,

Few words I speak, for I hate talking, Yet bear with me a story will I tell

About a politician, good man he was (strange news),

Who made speech so long, that at the last

They chloroformed him, and bore him hence upon a stretcher.

Ye men that sell the fruit, are ye all dinkum,

Or are ye like the cows which do not pay?

Del.: He speaketh waggishly; this is good fun.

Pigot.: All sections of the trade should work as one

And so united should we be that when we speak

Our voices will be heard, and our needs met.

All: Let's sing Auld Lang Syne.

Australian Conference of Fruitgrowers

Sixteenth Annual Meeting, Melbourne, May 7th-12th.

Important matters discussed: Bright social functions.

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL Australian Conference of Fruitgrowers was held at Melbourne from May 7th to 12th, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. H. Lang (Harcourt, V.).

A big agenda paper was satisfactorily handled, whilst the social programme left nothing to be desired.

During the past sixteen years, much substantial good to the industry has resulted from these annual interstate gatherings of representative fruitgrowers. The interstate trade in fruit has been improved, difficulties having been removed largely through the attendance of the senior Government inspection and Horticultural officials; a standard export case for Australia was adopted; the Pomological Committee was inaugurated; a united protest was made against the inequitable sugar position; canned fruit pools were projected and adopted; a successful fight was waged against the early closing of Melbourne fruit shops; and in a score of other ways the Australian Conference has more than justified its existence.

In fact, the record is remarkable for a purely voluntary organization, with honorary executive officers.

After the dates for both the Pomological and Australian Conferences had been announced and plans made, a meeting of the National Advisory Council a semi-official was suddenly called (by telegram), which clashed with the dates already decided on, and called for rapid alteration of plans at the last moment.

Delegates and visitors attended as follows:—President, Mr. J. H. Lang (Vic.); Vice-President, Hon. L. M. Shoobridge, M.L.C. (Tas.), also—

Tasmania — Mr. Neil Campbell, M.H.A.; Mr. J. P. Piggot, M.H.A.; A. J. Honey, P. H. Thomas.

New South Wales—T. W. McMahon, F. A. Nicolson, W. J. Allen, R. H. Crossman, A. Goodhew.

South Australia—C. T. Fisher, J. Donaldson, H. Wicks, G. Tilling, C. H. Ragless, G. Quinn, J. B. Randell, M.L.A.

Victoria—H. H. Hatfield, J. W. Bailey, W. J. Foster, B. S. B. Cook, P. J. Carmody, E. E. Meeking, E. E. Pescott.

Western Australia—O. Sparkes, G. W. Wickens, A. P. Sharp.

Queensland—J. M. Ward, and R. E. Boardman, hon. secretary.

The official opening was performed by Hon. W. M. McPherson, M.L.A., Acting-Premier of Victoria, who stated the fruit industry was of increasing importance: we should cultivate the Australian sentiment, the Victorian Government would co-operate with the

Federal Government and the growers' organizations in an endeavour to find markets for fruit. The local markets were not nearly developed. The growers should organize, and themselves capture these.

Mr. Harold Clapp, Chairman Victorian Railway Commissioners, delivered a striking address on the value of advertising fruit, in which matter he had already given a most practical lead. [Details will be subsequently published. —Editor.]

A vote of thanks to Messrs. McPherson and Clapp was carried on the motion of Messrs. Keek, M.L.C., and Everard, M.L.A.

Conference Sessions.

In presenting the annual report, the president drew attention to the notable achievement in the securing of legislation freeing the Melbourne fruit shops from restrictive closing hours.

Conference with Sugar Canegrowers.—The United Canegrowers' Association, Brisbane, wrote requesting a conference in Sydney between canegrowers and fruitgrowers, stating that canegrowers were agreeable to all sugar used in all manufactures for export being obtained duty free, and that special consideration would be given to the matter of the price to be paid for sugar processed for local consumption.

Decided that this proposed conference be approved and that each State appoint its own delegate.

Rough Handling of Fruit.—On the motion of Messrs. Donaldson and Fisher (S.A.), it was decided:—

That this Conference wishes to strengthen the hands of the State Associations in asking for more consideration in the handling of their fruit on boat and railways. Copy of this resolution to be forwarded to the Ministers of Agriculture and Railway Departments.

Tasmanian delegates stated that agitation and legislation had improved their loading conditions. The services of inspectors under the Standardisation Act were being used.

Reciprocal Trade with Canada.

Hon. L. M. Shoobridge (Tas.) moved: That, believing in the development of empire trade, this Conference is of the opinion that, provided sufficient safeguards be maintained with regard to the prevention of the entry of diseases, there should be no embargo against products from different parts of the empire.

It was possible, he said, to develop trade in Canada with Apples, citrus

and dried fruits. We should be consistent and not impose an embargo.

Mr. Ward (Q.) stated there was no danger of importing fireblight on the fruit. The effect of fireblight was to prevent fruit from forming.

Mr. Wicks said that when the embargo was imposed, it was not a question of fireblight, but of protecting local growers of late cold stored Apples.

Mr. D. H. Ross, Canadian Trade Commissioner, who attended by request, stated that Australian Apples were permitted entry into Canada, subject to inspection. The fireblight complained of in Canada existed in only a small area in British Columbia; but fireblight could not be carried in fruit, and if the embargo were lifted, Apples would be sent from districts where fireblight did not exist. Canadian Apples could only come to Australia during the "off" season here. The average annual shipments previously were about 10,000 cases. The lifting of the embargo would assist in developing reciprocal trade. There was a good market in Canada for Australian Apples, which should arrive there before the end of May.

In sending fruit to Canada, continued Mr. Ross, the hardwood case was not suitable; this also applied to fruit to England. Hardwood cases were up to a dozen lbs. heavier than softwood, and when the fruit was sent inland it imposed a heavy and unnecessary surcharge for freight. Australia was developing a market in Canada for citrus fruits. With reference to dried fruits, Canada could consume the whole Australian production.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Ross.

Mr. N. Campbell, M.H.A. (Tas.) proposed an amendment—

That this Conference considers that the question of reciprocal trade with Canada may be so far-reaching that it is not desirable to recommend the lifting of the embargo at the present juncture.

Mr. Hatfield (Vic.) seconded.

Mr. Bailey (V.) stated there was a danger of Canadian Apples competing against local cool stored Apples. The lifting of the embargo would mean the end of cool storage in Victoria.

Interjection: "You want to use the Plant Diseases Act for the protection of trade."

The amendment was carried.

Softwood Cases.—It was decided:—

That this Conference requests the Federal Government to refund the duty paid on softwood case material imported from Canada—on re-exportation—this to apply to cases for fresh, canned or dried fruits.

Imported Brandy.

Mr. Fisher (S.A.) stated that careful experts were of the opinion that the French brandy imported in bulk was not made from Grapes. Australian growers of brandy Grapes had to comply with the local Excise Act. He moved:

That enquiries be instituted with a view to raising the duty on French brandy, and also that French brandy be compelled to comply with the Act, and the quality of the brandy be certified accordingly.

Mr. Donaldson (S.A.) seconded.—Carried.

Wine and Brandy Grapes.

On the motion of Messrs. Fisher and Ward, it was decided—

That this Conference urges upon the Federal Government the need of bettering the conditions of wine and brandy Grape growers, who, being unable to pool their products, have no control over the price received for their Grapes.

That, if the Federal Government decides to lower the excise duty, at least five-eighths of the amount by which the excise may be lowered should go to the growers of Grapes.

That the State Horticultural Instructors, with representative growers, should meet in each State and decide the ways and means to get a cash advantage to the growers of Grapes.

Plant Quarantine Station

Mr. Shoobridge moved:

That Conference requests the Federal Quarantine Department to conduct suit-

able quarantine stations for the purpose of importing plants and seeds in quarantine for distribution when found clean.

Mr. Wicks (S.A.) seconded and urged the necessity for Australia being able to secure new and valuable varieties of fruit from abroad. In the discussion which followed, the several speakers brought forth many urgent reasons in support of the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Subsequently, in discussing the question of citrus canker, Conference decided to request that new citrus varieties be permitted entry in quarantine for propagating purposes.

Interstate Railway Freights.

Mr. Fisher (S.A.) moved:

That a request be made for lowering freights on passenger interstate trains—to be referred to Premiers' Conference.

Mr. McMahon (N.S.W.) seconded. A van for perishable fruits should be attached to the mail trains.—Carried.

Relationship with National Fruit Advisory Council.

Mr. Shoobridge traced the history of the Australian Conference of Fruit-growers—the formation and financing by the Tasmanian State Government

of the Central Fruit Committee—the formation by Mr. Rodgers (then Minister for Customs) of the Australian National Advisory Council. He regretted the limited representation for growers of "fresh fruit" on the Council; sectional committees should meet separately. A Westralian delegate told him he had sat for two days at the recent National Council and heard nothing of interest to him. If the National Council could carry out its programme he would support it. The agenda paper in front of them contained many matters dealt with by the National Advisory Council. He warmly commended the idea of the formation of a Royal Australian Horticultural Society and Pomological Committee; a subscription to be payable to finance the society; Australian conferences and shows to be conducted.

Mr. Nicolson, (N.S.W.) congratulated the Australian Conference on its good work during the past years. The State Fruit Advisory Board was satisfactory in New South Wales, but the National Advisory Council was like a motor car without petrol.

The system of voluntary contributions from growers was a failure. A registration fee (not "tax") was desirable. He was not hopeful of assist-

AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE OF FRUITGROWERS. DELEGATES, AND VISITORS.



Back Row (left to right): Messrs. O. Sparks (W.A.), A. Goodhew (N.S.W.), J. Donaldson (S.A.), F. A. Nicolson (N.S.W.), A. P. Sharp (W.A.), E. E. Meeking, and H. H. Hatfield (V.).

Second Row: P. H. Thomas (T.), G. W. Wickens (W.A.), R. H. Crossman (N.S.W.), W. J. Allen (N.S.W.), J. W. Bailey (V.), H. Wicks (S.A.).

Front Row (standing): J. M. Ward (Q.). (Sitting): J. B. Randell, M.L.A. (S.A.), R. E. Boardman, Hon. Sec. (V.), J. H.

ance from the Federal Government to finance the Advisory Council.

Mr. Pigott said there was need for both organizations. The Australian Conference was educational, but the National Council was the business organization. He believed the necessary finance could be collected. Tasmania was passing an Act defining the method of electing delegates.

Mr. Sparks (W.A.) supported the idea of the National Council; for one thing the expenses of delegates would be paid, which was not the case when attending the Australian Conference.

Mr. Campbell said the National Council (which included the formation of State Boards) was a distinct move forward, but it should not supersede the work of the Australian Conference. He moved:

That in future the meeting of the Australian Conference of Fruitgrowers should take place immediately before the meeting of the National Council.

Mr. Ward seconded. The subject was further keenly debated, when an amendment, suggested by the Chairman and accepted by the mover and seconder, was carried, as follows:—

That, in order to secure the most effective organization in the fruitgrowing industry, this Conference desires to co-operate to the fullest extent with the National Advisory Council, and that meetings be arranged at dates most suitable to all concerned.

It was further decided, on the motion of Messrs. Shoobridge and McMahon:

That the Federal Government defray the cost of meetings of the National Council, leaving the States to meet their own expenses.

Canning and Jam Fruits.

Requests for Further Pools.

On the motion of Messrs. Bailey and Pigott, it was decided:

That this meeting urges the Ministry to obtain an increased sale of stocks of pool fruits at an attractive price by placing this fruit within the reach of consumers, so that there will not be a surplus running into next season, and That Plums be included in the next pool.

The resolution was adopted.

Mr. Bailey moved, and Mr. Pigott seconded:

That in the opinion of this meeting the Ministry should provide another pool to growers, paying them the cost of production.

Mr. Pigott stated that the Australian standard of living had been raised all round till it now reached the primary producer. Employees received high awards from the Arbitration Court, manufacturers were protected by a high tariff, sugar was protected to the tune of £3,000,000 annually. But what of the fruitgrower? He had to stand every increase without receiving an increased return for his labour. While the present stocks of canned fruit were held—and the quantity was enormous—no canner or jam manufacturer would

dare to open his doors. A pool, financed by the Federal Government was necessary.

Mr. Donaldson supported the request for a pool, but moved as an amendment that the words "paying growers the cost of production" be deleted. A fruit pool for next season was absolutely necessary—not a sectional pool like the present one, which excluded those most in need. Why hamper the resolution by requesting the cost of production? Who could say what was a payable price to growers? Without a pool the local markets would be hopelessly glutted.

Mr. Nicolson seconded the amendment.

Mr. Polkinghorne (N.S.W.) said that the industry was facing a big crisis but sooner or later they must get back to normal. Growers on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas were not keen on another pool.

The amendment was lost and the motion carried on the casting vote of the Chairman.

The item from Victoria, requesting that dried stone fruits be included in the next pool, was by resolution referred to the Australian Dried Fruits' Association.

Interstate Inspection Fees.—On the motion of Messrs. Honey (T.) and Shoobridge, it was decided to request that the interstate inspection fees be reduced by 50 per cent.

Advertising Fruit.—A valuable discussion took place on the subject of advertising to increase fruit consumption. Resolutions were adopted urging fruitgrowers to introduce the personal touch by asking for fruit at all meals, and that the various State Advisory Boards, when in receipt of funds, to spend portion of same in advertising fruit.

The Starling Pest.

Starlings were declared by Mr. H. Wicks to be "an unmitigated curse to the fruitgrower." Other delegates spoke equally strongly and gave instances of the havoc wrought by these pests. The president stated that success had attended an organized "shoot" near Harecourt. The shooting team came with shot guns, and "blazed away" into the bushes, where the starlings were roosting. Thousands of birds were killed, and the flocks were dispersed from the district.

Other destructive bird pests were mentioned, including the paroquet, black cockatoo, the "twenty-eight" parrot, and on the motion of Messrs. Sparkes and Wicks it was decided—

That the State Governments be requested to co-operate with the fruitgrowers to eradicate or minimise the starling pest and other birds detrimental to orchards.

The Arbitration Court.

Hon. L. M. Shoobridge moved:

That this Conference of Fruitgrowers strongly urges that the rural industries be exempted from the Federal Arbitration Court and referred to State Wages Boards.

Mr. Goodhew (N.S.W.) seconded.

Several delegates quoted examples revealing the unfair operation of Arbitration Court awards.

As an amendment Mr. McMahon (N.S.W.) moved:

That the fruitgrowing industries of the Commonwealth be exempted from Federal Arbitration Court awards.

Mr. Nicholson seconded.—Carried.

Trade with China.

Mr. H. Louey Pang delivered an interesting and instructive address. China annually imported over £1,000,000 worth of fresh fruits, of which Australia contributed only a few thousands. [Further details will be published.]

A hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Pang.

Fumigation of Citrus.

Mr. Geo. Quinn delivered an instructive address on the fumigation of Citrus Trees, and was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

The Citrus Industry.

Mr. Nicolson moved:

That this Conference requests the total prohibition of citrus fruit, and trees and shrubs of the citrus family, except in quarantine, for propagation purposes.

Mr. Ward (Q.) seconded.

Mr. Allen (N.S.W.) stated there was no citrus canker in the Northern Territory. It would be safe to hold citrus trees in quarantine for buds to be distributed for propagating.

Mr. Wicks emphasized the urgent necessity for the establishment of a plant quarantine station through which new varieties could be imported. The present embargo was a serious handicap to Australia; furthermore, there was a danger of diseases coming in on smuggled plants.

The resolution was carried.

Mr. B. S. B. Cook, secretary Victorian Central Citrus Association, gave an interesting address, outlining the present stage of the organization of the citrus industry. Mr. Cook stated that in five or six years there would be in Victoria alone an annual production of 1,000,000 cases of citrus fruits. The Melbourne market could only absorb 200,000 cases a year, and therefore, citrus growers had to concentrate on overseas markets. This year, in addition to Great Britain, citrus fruits would be sent to the East, to Canada, and to New Zealand. Experiments were being made in cold-storing Oranges. This season the citrus growers were not insuring under the "all-risk" clause. A co-operative company was being registered in Victoria to regulate the citrus industry. Similar steps were being taken in New South Wales and South Australia. West Australian growers were favourably considering joining the organization. In answer to a question by Mr. Ward, Mr. Cook stated that it was also hoped that the Queensland growers would affiliate. A hearty vote of thanks was carried to Mr. Cook.

Uniform Citrus Case.—It was decided to recommend the adoption of a uniform citrus case—the details to be left to the representatives of the citrus industry.

—This matter was keenly debated, especially in view of the reports that immature fruit had been sent from Tasmania this season. It was pointed out that the season was an early one, and the ship's cold storage space had to be filled or dead freight paid. The early boats generally brought best prices. Mr. Goodhew (N.S.W.) moved and Mr. Sparkes (West Australia) seconded—

That in the opinion of this Conference the Commerce Act meets all requirements in regard to shipments of fruit and that the Act should be carried out.

Mr. Sharp stated that grade marks on cases were valueless; the fruit was sold on its merits.

It was decided, on the motion of Messrs. Ward and Pigott:

That this Conference approves of the standards determined upon by the National Fruitgrowers' Council.

Branding.—It was further decided that brand marks be adopted, as decided by the National Council.

Reduction of Freight.—Decided, on the motion of Messrs. Sparkes and Goodhew, that a request be made for further reduction in the overseas freight on fruit.

Report of Pomological Conference.

When the Conference resumed sitting at Harcourt, Mr. E. E. Pescott addressed the meeting, outlining the work carried out by the Committee, and detailed the proceedings of this year's meeting.

Mr. L. M. Shoobridge moved adoption of report. Mr. H. Wicks seconded. Mr. J. P. Pigott stressed the need of better support being given to the Pomological Committee by the respective State Governments, considering the valuable work being performed by same. He moved a vote of thanks to the members of the Pomological Committee for their services to the fruit industry.

This was carried unanimously.

British Empire Exhibition.

Members of the Australian Fruit Council reported that this had been considered at their meeting, and that same had been referred to the Executive Committee of the various States for action.

It was decided to ask the British Empire Exhibition Commission to submit, as early as possible, to the various States, the detailed scheme of fruit exhibits at the Exhibition.

Dominion Preference.

On the motion of Messrs. Honey (T.) and Donaldson (S.A.), it was decided:

That this Conference supports the policy of the Federal Government for

securing Dominion preference, and trusts that the Prime Minister's efforts at the forthcoming Conference will be successful in this connection.

Interstate Fruit Trade.

Mr. Ward (Q.) moved, and Mr. H. Wicks (S.A.) seconded:

That an endeavour be made to seek reduction of rail and shipping freights between States.

Carried.

That the different organizations of each State be asked to approach their respective Governments to endeavour to secure more suitable railways wagons for fruit transit.

Mr. Lang (president) then delivered a very interesting and instructive lecture on Cold Storage of Fruit, and was accorded a vote of thanks.

Shipping and Packing Numbers.

Moved by J. M. Ward and seconded by A. Honey, and carried:

That this Conference agrees to a uniform list of shipping and packing numbers for agents throughout Australia.

Next Conference.

It was decided to hold the next Conference in Tasmania at the end of March or first week of April.

Election of Officers.

Office-bearers were elected as follows:—

President—Hon. L. M. Shoobridge, M.L.C.



COMPLIMENTARY DINNER TENDERED TO THE AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE OF FRUITGROWERS BY THE MELBOURNE WHOLESALE FRUIT TRADE AND EXPORTERS.

Vice-President—(To be elected by Westralian Associations.)

State Representatives.

N.S.W.—Major-General Hean.
Tas.—Hon. L. M. Shoobridge, M.L.C.
Q.—W. Ellison.
W.A.—A. T. Booth.
S.A.—J. Donaldson.
Vic.—J. H. Lang.
Hon. Secretary—R. E. Boardman.

Executive—It was decided that the Victorian Central Association be the Executive of the Conference for the present.

A hearty vote of thanks was carried to the President (Mr. Lang) and to all who assisted in the success of the Conference.

THE CONFERENCE ON ITS SOCIAL SIDE.

Entertaining and Instructive Programme.

Luncheon at Parliament House.

The Acting Premier, Hon. W. M. McPherson, tendered a complimentary luncheon to delegates, which was warmly appreciated.

Visit to Doncaster.

The delegates were met at Heidelberg railway station by several Doncaster growers, with motor cars, one car being supplied by Messrs. Smith and Baldock, wholesale fruit merchants. The cool store at Templestowe was inspected, when the delegates were welcomed by the president of the shire. Afternoon tea was provided.

The orchard of Mr. H. Petty was then visited, much interest was shown in a fine crop of Yates Apples. The Yarra is on the boundary of this property, and supplies abundant water for irrigation. Thence to the orchard of Mr. Wagstaff, where the extensive view of the surrounding district was much admired.

Much interest was shown in the cool store of the Orchardists Pty. Ltd., with its up-to-date machinery and extensive fruit storage chambers. After full justice had been done to the tea (provided by the Doncaster growers), the chairman (Mr. Zerbe) gave an interesting account of the early history of fruitgrowing in that district.

The usual toasts being duly honoured, the visitors were motored to Box Hill, well pleased with their visit to the district of cool stores and warm hearts.

Ringwood.

The visit to Ringwood was keenly enjoyed. Delegates and visitors inspected the 50,000 case cool store, originally erected by the Government, but subsequently purchased and added to by the growers. The genial secretary, Mr. Aird, stated that charges worked out at 1/7 per case per season, which included all charges, as well as insurance, sinking fund, working and managerial expenses.

After a pleasant motor spin a halt was called at the 100-acre Pear and Apple orchard of Mr. L. J. Lipscombe at Croydon. A private cool store of 10,000 case capacity was here inspected. Amongst his equipment were noted a Fordson tractor, of which the proprietor speaks highly; and a motor waggon. A large dam, to contain over a million gallons, was being constructed. Refreshments were served and hearty thanks were expressed to this enterprising fruitgrower.

Tea was served at the cool store, after which Mr. J. P. Pigott, M.H.A. (Tas.), gave a bright impromptu address on Australia's National Policy.

At the "smoke night," which followed, Cr. Miles (shire president), took the chair. Interesting speeches were made by delegates, and toasts were honoured.

Mr. A. E. V. Richardson, M.A., Superintendent of Agriculture, delivered an admirable address, illustrated with lantern slides, showing the marvellous strides made through Agricultural and Horticultural Education in U.S.A., and pointed out the opportunities in front of Australia in this matter.

Mr. Robt. Cook, M.H.R., in the course of an address, referred to the effects of the "iniquitous sugar agreement," and the unfair incidence of Arbitration Court awards and the high tariff.

Mr. W. H. Everard, M.L.A., criticised the Victorian Government for publishing the absurd qualifications desired in a Superintendent of Horticulture; dust was now being thrown in the eyes of the growers. Regarding markets, the local market should be developed; open-air markets were commended. The Sydney Royal Show encouraged district fruit exhibits to a greater extent than was done in Melbourne.

Very hearty thanks were expressed to the generous and cordial Ringwood growers.

Visit to Harcourt.

Unfortunately, the train was delayed on the journey to Castlemaine, and only a very hurried inspection could be made of the engineering works of Thompson & Co. Pty. Ltd., Castlemaine.

The visitors were impressed with the extent of the premises and the size and varied character of the machines manufactured.

Lunch was provided at Harcourt, after which a business session was held. The delegates, who were accommodated in the homes of the growers, reassembled again in the A.N.A. Hall, where a social evening was held. Short addresses on various phases of fruitgrowing were given by Messrs. Wickens (W.A.), Quinn (S.A.), Ward (Q.), Pigott (Tas.), Ragless (S.A.), Lt.-Col. G. Hurry, D.S.O., M.P., being also present.

On Saturday, May 12th, the Harcourt cool stores were visited, also several orchards and other places of interest. The majority of the delegates left to catch the interstate trains that evening. Several, however, remained over the week-end, and were

given an opportunity of inspecting the Laneoocrie Weir on the Loddon, where water is conserved for irrigation purposes further down the river.

Complimentary Dinner.

The dinner tendered to delegates by the Melbourne Wholesale Fruit Importers and Fruit Exporters was altogether a happy and successful function. Mr. H. M. Wade presided. After an excellent dinner, interesting speeches were made by Messrs. J. E. Fenton, M.H.R., W. H. Everard, M.L.A., J. W. Pennington, M.L.A., J. P. Pigott, M.H.A., F. W. Vear, A. G. Lester, J. H. Young, and S. J. Perry. The heartiest good feeling prevailed. The general tone of the meeting reflected the desire for closer unity between the producers and distributors, whose interests were identical. The several musical and elocutionary items were keenly enjoyed. The speech by Mr. J. P. Pigott, M.H.A., in responding to the toast of "Our Visitors," was particularly breezy and well received by the meeting.

Meetings such as this assist in breaking down such barriers as exist between growers and traders, and tend to promote that unity which is so necessary in developing an industry.

The singing of Auld Lang Syne brought a remarkably successful gathering to a close.

Answers to Queries.

Cross Fertilizing Plums.—R. B., Shepparton (Vic.) asks:—(1) Could you please tell me the best Plum for fertilizing Angelina Burdett Plum? also (2) If Golden Drop is a good fertilizer for Angelinas?

Answer (by E. E. Pescott, F.L.S.)—

(1) The Diamond (Black Diamond) is one of the best for fertilizing Angelina Burdett. It flowers slightly later, but usually flowers are on both varieties at the same time.

(2) Not usually; Coe's Golden Drop generally flowers a week or ten days later than Angelina Burdett, although in one year they flowered simultaneously.

Answer (by John Brunning & Sons, Somerville, Vic.)—

(1) From our own observations, the following varieties of Plums flower with Angelina Burdett, and are suitable for cross fertilizing purposes:—Diamond, Early Orleans, and Rivers' Early Profife.

(2) The variety Coe's Golden Drop, is of no value, on account of its flowering too late.

Little Tommy had reached the play-at-carpenter stage.

One morning father heard the familiar hammer beat, and, looking out into the garden, he saw Tommy banging away, his little sister Margaret sitting beside him, apparently looking on.

"Haven't I told you, Tommy, that you will smash your fingers if you drive nails!" he shouted.

"Yes, I know, dad; but Margaret is holding the nail," came the reply.

Australian Fruit Council

Important Meeting at Melbourne.
All branches of Fruit Industry represented.

The second meeting of the Australian Fruit Council was held at Melbourne on 3rd and 4th May, 1923.

Producers representatives, Commonwealth and State officials, were present, as follows:—

Producers.—(N.S.W.): Messrs. H. G. Such, E. J. Polkinghorne, F. A. Nicolson. **(Victoria):** W. J. Foster, J. G. Aird, W. N. Sumner, B. S. B. Cook. **(S. Aust.):** J. B. Randall, M.L.A., J. Donaldson, H. Wicks, A. E. Ross. **(W. Aust.):** O. Sparks, G. W. Sharp, J. Thomas, F. J. Becher. **(Tasmania):** N. Campbell, M.H.A., J. P. Pigott, M.H.A., E. H. Thompson.

Commonwealth Officials.—Messrs. E. J. Mulvany, A. R. Townsend, H. Souter.

State Officials.—W. J. Allen (N.S.W.), G. Quinn (S. Aust.), G. W. Wicks (W. Aust.), P. H. Thomas (Tas.), E. Meeking (Vic.).

The conference was opened by Senator R. W. Wilson, Assistant-Minister for Trade and Customs, who urged the growers to conduct their business on a co-operative basis without Government interference.

Mr. W. J. Foster was appointed chairman.

Finance.—The Federal Government wrote refusing a grant of £500. In the discussion, delegates urged that as the Council had been called into being to advise the Federal Government, the necessary finance should thus be provided.

Mr. B. S. B. Cook stated the Council was created for the national work of organizing the industry, so as to market all its produce, and the finance should be provided out of Federal revenue. Voluntary effort was useless. A motion requesting the Federal Government to grant £1,000 was lost, and an amendment was carried requesting the Government to pay the out-of-pocket expenses of the council to enable it to function until the State Governments gave the fruit industry statutory powers to tax growers for organizing purposes.

Mr. Foster subsequently reported re-deputation to the Assistant-Minister on finance, and stated that the Minister had suggested, as an alternative, that the council should have an export tax to raise funds. This proposal was strenuously objected to by delegates, and a resolution in favor of legislation for an annual registration fee on an acreage basis was carried; same to be brought before the Premier's Conference.

Overseas Freights.—A resolution was carried thanking the Commonwealth Line for reducing freights on Apples to 4/-, and on citrus to 5/-; and stating that all freights should be further reduced.

Branding and Numbering.—The proposal for substituting numbers for growers brands was opposed, and a resolution adopted postponing further discussion until further advices were received from England.

British Empire Exhibition.—It was decided to request the Assistant-Minister for Customs to safeguard the quality of all Australian products used at the restaurant at the exhibition, such products to be passed by an official before use.

After an address by Mr. H. V. Ryan, co-ordinating officer of the exhibition, it was decided that the Executive of the council should determine the allocating of space, supplies and finance, and that the Commonwealth Government steamers should place their experimental chambers at the disposal of the committee for carrying soft fruits.

Executive Committee.—The following Executive was appointed, subject to the approval of the State Boards:—Messrs. W. J. Foster (Vic.), chairman; J. P. Pigott (Tas.); O. Sparks (W.A.); F. A. Nicolson (N.S.W.); A. E. Ross (S. Aust.); W. Ranger (Q.).

New Markets for Fruit.—An interesting discussion took place, in which cold stores in the East were advocated, and that shipping be subsidised by the Federal Government. It was decided to ask the Bureau of Commerce and Industry for definite information as to what markets were available to the fruit industry, and what qualities could be absorbed.

Government Plantings.—A long discussion followed on the Victorian resolution requesting the State Governments to cease subsidising plantings till markets were found for the present fruit production. It was finally decided to request the aid of the Federal Ministry in increasing consumption by extending markets, and that the State Boards should interview their respective Governments pointing out the present over-production or under-consumption with a view to obtaining increased consumption of fruit at home and abroad.

Mr. C. E. D. Meares, a member of the recent fruit delegation to England, delivered an interesting address and was accorded a vote of thanks.

Mr. R. P. Allen, inspector for canned fruit pool for 1923, read a report of the season's operations.

Apple and Pear Grading Regulations.—After a strenuous debate it was agreed by six votes to five that the regulations (as published elsewhere in this issue) be adopted and that the branding regulations, as drafted by the Committee of the National Council last August, be approved.

Dried Fruits.—On the motion of

Messrs. Thomas (W.A.), and Sumner (V.), it was decided—

That in view of the unfairness of the present position of the Dried Fruits' Association having to export a large percentage of their fruit whilst growers unaffiliated with the A.D.F.A. sell all their output in the Commonwealth, this Conference considers it is absolutely essential that legislation should be passed making it compulsory for all growers of dried fruits to export the same percentage.

State Inspection Fees.—Decided that each State Advisory Board should approach its own Government with a view to obtaining reductions in the State inspection fees.

Export Inspection Fees.—Mr. Mulvany explained that it was originally proposed to fix a fee of ½d. per case on fresh fruit exported, to pay the cost of inspection, but the Minister suspended this regulation for the 1922 season.

Mr. Thompson (T.) referred to a statement that the proposed new fresh fruit regulations gave inspectors no more power than they already possessed. He assumed, therefore, that there would be no extra expense, and moved—

That the proposed imposition of export fees be further suspended until it is found that extra cost is actually being incurred.

Mr. Randall (S.A.) seconded.

Three votes were recorded in favor and three against; the motion was then declared lost by the casting vote of the chairman.

Mr. Ross (S.A.) moved—

That the inspection fees for exports of fresh Apples and Pears be fixed at not more than ½d. per case.

Mr. Becher (W.A.) seconded the motion, which was carried.

Canned Fruit.—Consideration of the canned fruit position was referred back to the State Advisory Boards.

Dried Fruits.—In order to prevent inferior Currants being placed on the market it was decided that all sheds possessing dried fruit for export or for Commonwealth consumption, should be registered and subject to inspection. The matter to be referred to State Advisory Boards.

All-Risk Insurance Policies.—It was resolved to approach the fruit shippers to refrain from effecting insurances under comprehensive policies.

Pre-Cooling Oranges.—Mr. Mulvany read a letter of 20/1/23 from the W.A. State Board, re pre-cooling of Oranges.

Mr. Thomas (T.) stated that special experiments were being made this season in Tasmania as to the value or otherwise of pre-cooling Apples for export.

Mr. Thompson (T.) moved that the question be held over until the result of these experiments.

Mr. Becher (W.A.) opposed the motion, saying that pre-cooling of Oranges was not necessary in W.A. owing to the comparatively cool climate at

the time of export. One exporter suffered a very heavy loss on one shipment of pre-cooled fruit, which was rejected by the inspectors.

The motion was then passed.

Census of Fruit Production.—This matter was referred to the Premiers' Conference, urging that it be undertaken without delay.

Preferential Tariff.—The W.A. Advisory Board wrote suggesting that Australian fruits should enter Canada free of duty. It was resolved to urge upon the Commonwealth Government the necessity for preferential treatment for Australian produce entering both Canada and New Zealand.

Covent Garden Rights.—It was resolved that the Commonwealth Government be urged to take whatever action is possible in the direction of abolishing the privilege as to marketing possessed by Covent Garden.

Citrus Fruits.—A resolution was adopted urging citrus growers in every State to become affiliated with the Citrus Association.

Appointment of Secretary.—The chairman announced that the Assistant-Minister of Customs had arranged for Mr. Mulvany to continue as acting-secretary for a brief period, pending the appointment of a permanent official. Appreciation was expressed to the Commonwealth Government.

A vote of thanks was carried to the chairman (Mr. Foster) and the secretary (Mr. Mulvany).

AUSTRALIAN FRUIT EXPORTS.

Statement Showing Number of Packages of Fruit Shipped to United Kingdom, Season 1923 to 30/4/23.

The Victorian Department of Agriculture (Mr. E. Meeking, State Super-vising Officer for Fruit) submits the following details:—

	Various Apples	Grapes	Peaches	Pears	Plums	Total
Tasmania						1,209,017
Victoria	370,416	—	180	17,613	135	388,344
South Australia	11,971	62	—	326	271	12,630
West Australia	42 282,866	7,883	6	11,584	134	302,515
New South Wales	2,324	437		192		2,953
						1,915,459

Further details are given of the Victorian shipments, as follows:—

		London	Hull	Liverpool
Apples	370,416	280,749	73,542	16,125
Pears	17,613	17,613	—	—
Peaches	180	180	—	—
Plums	135	135	—	—
Grand total	388,344	e/s. 298,677	73,542	16,125



Mr. C. C. Brittlebank
Victorian Government
Plant Pathologist.

Peaches In Transit

Attacked by Virulent Disease.

Problem Solved by Department of Agriculture.

A REMARKABLE INSTANCE of the value of having trained scientists to solve problems of mysterious diseases affecting fruits is furnished by a well-known Goulburn Valley fruitgrower.

During the past three seasons, certain losses have occurred by a peculiar disease attacking the fruit after it had been picked from the trees. Every possible care and attention had been given in the way of spraying and cultural conditions, but in spite of this, losses occurred with more or less regularity until during the 1923 season, when the disease became rampant.

The trees were perfectly clean, and the fruit of excellent quality, but between the time of picking, and arrival at the markets or canning factory the losses were so heavy, that finally both the canning factory and the market agents rejected this grower's consignments. The fruit went bad within 24 hours of picking.

The position was desperate.

Whether as a last resource or on an inspiration—Mr. C. C. Brittlebank, Victorian Government Plant Pathologist, was advised of the trouble.

On being shown specimens of the fruit he diagnosed the trouble at once, but in order that there should be no mistake, he developed cultures and confirmed his opinion that the disease was

Rhizopus nigricans, Ehr. Furthermore, that this was not an orchard disease but one which attacked Pears and Peaches in storage and transit. A personal inspection of the orchard was made by Mr. Brittlebank, who was accompanied by another scientist, Mr. D. B. Adam, who instructed that all second-hand cases should be immediately sterilized, that the packing shed should also be cleansed.

The cases were dipped for three minutes in a boiling solution made up in the proportions of 2 lbs. washing soda to 10 gallons of water.

The result was astounding.

From the moment of giving this expert attention the trouble ceased.

The grower won back his good name in the markets and at the factories there being no rejections whatsoever. Had this grower known how to deal with the problem earlier it would have saved him £1,500 losses this season.

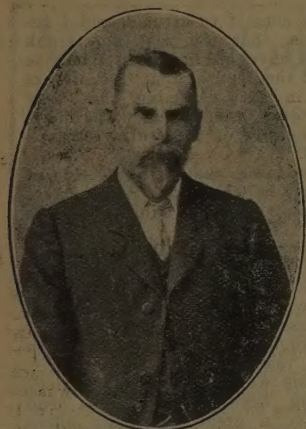
The foregoing instance demonstrates the great value to the industry of having capable scientists available to deal with such problems. The Science branch of the Department of Agriculture is one of its most important sections.

There yet remain the railway trucks to be sterilized by spraying the interiors with Bordeaux mixture about a fortnight after the season opens, and again in mid-season.

Electricity and Plant Life.—A curious instance of this has been brought under my notice by a business man of Orange, who has purchased a motor car (writes Mr. W. Lewis, of the Ophir Nursery, Clergate, N.S.W.).

The premises used by him in conducting his business were previously used for produce, and at the rear is a shed in which Potatoes had been stored. He utilized the shed for his car, and judge his surprise when, under the engine portion, a grand supply of Mushrooms sprang up, which were of splendid size.

It can only be traced to the fact that the soil in some of the bags of Potatoes contained spawn, which was started into growth by the dynamo, and considering how dry it was under a roofed shed, of years' standing, hard soil, it is a most remarkable proof of the power of electricity.



MR. E. LAWFORD.

THE SUBJECT OF THE IMPROVEMENT of, or of finding new and better stocks for fruit trees has a very wide field and is a most important and interesting one. The originators of many great inventions have almost accidentally hit upon their ideas or else have obtained unlooked for results from their experiments, and, while working for a certain result have obtained quite a different but a vastly more important one. In like manner an individual grower may accidentally or otherwise make a discovery which, if properly followed up by further experiments, might lead to very important results, which may or may not be in line with his original discovery.

For the proper development of better fruit tree stocks, it is essential that an

experimental nursery and orchard should be established where continuity in experimental work could obtain over long periods until final success or failure is reached in each trial. It is out of the question to rely entirely upon individual growers doing such work for themselves. Up to middle age, they are too intent upon gathering a competence for themselves, and afterwards life is too short to make it a practicable proposition.

The question here arises as to the control of such an experimental nursery and orchard.

Should the Agricultural Department control it or should the growers themselves do so?

I believe the latter proposition to be preferable. Growers would have more confidence in a manager of their own choosing than in a departmental officer, and they would be more ready and willing to communicate their experiences and suggestions to their own man than to a Government official.

[At the time of drafting my opinions re the control of experimental orchards, I had no definite source of inspiration on the point and when I heard Mr. Richardson's (the Superintendent of Agriculture) interesting lantern lecture at Ring-

The "Williams" as a Pear Stock.

Seedling Stocks are Variable: Cuttings are Better.

Lines of Investigations Suggested

By E. Lawford, Doncaster, Vic.

As a Pear grower, Mr. Edwin Lawford, of Doncaster (Vic.), is probably the most experienced, successful and respected expert in Victoria, if not in Australia.

The various points brought out in this article will be followed by our readers with the keenest interest. It is a valuable contribution to Australian horticultural literature.

This paper was prepared for reading at an evening session of the Australian Conference of Fruitgrowers, but as other circumstances intervened it was held for publication in the "Fruit World."

Apart from the definite conclusions which have been arrived at, the suggestions made are of equal or greater importance.

The portion inset was added after hearing the fine address by Mr. A. E. V. Richardson, M.A., on "Agricultural Education."

But what a pity there is a lack of sympathy between the Victorian Agricultural Department and the Fruitgrowers. Could not something be done to heal the breach?

wood on Tuesday, 8th May, 1923, and also his account of the marvelous success and progress of agricultural education in America, I was inclined to delete all reference to my own opinions as being too paltry as compared with the grand conceptions of the American agriculturist. Thinking it over as I walked at midnight the two miles between Box Hill and Doncaster, my thoughts took this turn:—Human nature, we believe, is the same the world over, and under identical conditions the Victorian farmer would act exactly the same as the American; therefore, the reason why he acts so differently is because the conditions are quite different. That being so, no blame is attachable to we Victorians if we do not rush into palatial agricultural colleges by the thousand of men and women of all ages eager to learn all that the department is equally eager to teach us, and so increase our primary products many fold. Mr. Richardson was satisfied to state the fact that the Americans do this and that we do not, without making any attempt to explain why it was so.

Where lies the difference between the Victorian and American conditions which makes the two people act so differently?

All such varying conditions are brought about by the respective Agricultural Departments, and therefore the Victorian and Federal Departments are alone responsible for our shortcomings in this direction.

That is the only logical conclusion attainable.

The history of our Agricultural Departments, so far as fruitgrowers are concerned, is strewn with instances of ill-considered activities which have alienated the confidence and sympathy of the growers.

From the time of the administration of the first Vegetation Diseases Act, down to the attempt to enforce the Marking of Cases Regulation, and on to the proposed appointment or a Superintendent of Horticulture and the turning down of the fruitgrowers' nominee for the State Advisory Board, our Departments have shown little desire to modify this feeling of alienation. Until such time as the unsympathetic, if not antagonistic attitude of the departments is completely reversed, no progress need be expected towards the grand success made of agricultural education in America.]

I did not commence this paper with any intention of setting forth my personal opinions on experimental orchards or anything of the kind, but this is an example of what writing a paper is apt to lead one into. The initial object of this paper is to describe my own experiences in connection with the improvement of Pear stocks.

HISTORY OF THE WILLIAMS STOCK.

IT IS FORTY ODD YEARS ago since I left the city and returned to my native heath to go into the nursery and fruitgrowing business with my brother. By that time (1882) the Pear stock had advanced from the old sucker stock of my boyhood time to the seedling stock.

Forty years ago, owing to the lack of proper system of pruning and the non-existence of the spray pump, the "Williams" was practically the only Pear that matured a payable crop of fruit. First-grade varieties, such as Winter Nelis, Josephine and Beurre Bosc almost totally failed to produce marketable fruit.

The consequence was that ninety per cent. of the Pear trees ordered from the nursery were of the Williams variety, hence the idea arose that the usual routine of raising seedlings and then working them to Williams was a very slow process and that a short cut was desirable.

Calling to mind that quite a number of fruit trees

struck freely from cuttings, the experiment was made of heeling in whole armful of Williams prunings.

The result, from a nurseryman's point of view, was altogether discouraging.

Why the odd one struck and the 999 did not was never found out. Ten or twelve entire Williams trees was the first year's result.

The next year about four dozen trees were secured out of a large dray load of prunings, after which the experiment was abandoned as a dismal failure.

Considered as a nurseryman's short cut, it was a bad failure, but it subsequently led up to the greatest success of my fruitgrowing experiences. Those trees grown from Williams prunings were planted out in the orchard, and they are all now, after forty years, still "going strong." They are practically the only trees remaining out of about 1,500 planted in '83 and '84.

The nurseryman's day-dream having proved a frost, several years elapsed before anything more occurred in connection with it.

When these trees, grown from cuttings, came into bearing, which they quickly did, several qualities were noted in them which made them stand out prominently above their fellows on seedling stocks.

The question then arose in my mind: If the Williams roots were so good for Williams trees why should they not be equally good, or even better, for other varieties of Pear trees?

For the "try-out" of this question, I chose two varieties which were considered to possess first-class dessert qualities, but which had been almost sterile and the most unprofitable varieties to attempt to grow, viz.:—Gansell's Bergamot and Winter Nelis.

The success of this experiment proved itself right from the jump with better results than had been expected. The Williams root produced a greater improvement in these two varieties than it did in the Williams itself.

Thereafter, with one exception, which was in an emergency, I never planted in seedling-stock Pear trees, the final result being that out of over 5,000 Pear trees planted, less than 100 seedling stocks remain, and these will probably disappear this coming winter.

ADVANTAGES OF THE WILLIAMS STOCK.

THE ADVANTAGES OF THE WILLIAMS root over the seedling are numerous. Starting from the nursery and supposing that preference is given to planting out the stocks in their permanent position in the orchard rather than to working them over in the nursery, the planter can be confident that these stocks will grow vigorously, and evenly, throughout the plantation with a very small number of—if any—gaps.

With ordinary good treatment, they will be ready for budding over the following summer. These buds will take readily and will grow vigorously and evenly.

No matter how dwarfish or uneven in habit a variety may be on the seedling stock, it is entirely overcome by the use of the Williams root, and this regularity of growth, followed by regularity of cropping, is maintained for life.

This latter statement is rather prophetic, as I have not yet seen a Williams rooted tree come to the end of its tether. The evenness of growth is accounted for by the fact that every tree in the plantation has an exactly similar root system in all respects, whereas each seedling differs in some respect in constitution from every other seedling.

All the best well-known varieties of Pear bear earlier on the Williams root, produce finer and a more even grade of fruit, and more regular crops than the average trees on seedling stocks. All the roots of the former are fruit-producing, being approximately horizontal, while a large portion of the roots of a seedling are perpendicular and therefore wood-producing. The Williams rooted tree therefore will not grow as tall as some on seedlings, but owing to its

good bearing qualities

this is not a disadvantage, as more trees to the acre can be grown, and the fruit can be more easily gathered.

The Williams rooted tree is far less injuriously affected by attacks of root-borer than the seedling because its roots are nearer the surface. There is less work in pruning the former, as its energy is spent more on producing fruit than on growing waste wood. The Williams root produces no suckers.

Propagation.

The one great disadvantage to the Williams stock is its great difficulty of propagation. Various methods have been tried, such as striking root cuttings, stooling and layering, but as yet no definite system of propagation has been arrived at, which would bring the raising of Pear trees on Williams roots within the nurseryman's ordinary sphere of work.

GENERAL REMARKS.

THERE IS AN IMMENSE FIELD open for experimenting wherein valuable discoveries may be made in regard to fruit tree stocks.

If it be correct to assume, and I believe it is, that the root and trunk of a tree have an influence upon the growth of the head of that tree, we are justified in also assuming that they have an equal influence upon the quantity and quality of the fruit grown on that head.

It seems to me that in any series of experiments in which Pear stocks were the subject, seedlings would have to be eliminated because

no two seedlings are alike, and the exact nature of the respective stocks used in the experiment would be unknown, and if an abnormally successful result were produced at any time, it would be extremely difficult to reproduce that result.

In double worked trees, the variety intervening between root and head might have a great improving effect upon the crop of fruit, but again, that result could not easily be reproduced with any degree of certainty if the root stock were a seedling.

But if a series of experiments were made wherein the root stock in each series was of a certain variety of which all its qualities, good, bad and indifferent, were known with complete exactness, then the various results could be categorically recorded and could be reproduced at will.

The root stock, which forms the subject of this paper, comes under that category. Whether it is its constitution, its robustness of growth, its bearing capacity, the quality of its fruit, or its keeping qualities, everything is well known.

I do not claim that the Williams stock is the last word in Pear stocks, but I do know that it is very much superior to the seedling, especially for a shy bearer, and one noted for its unthrifty growth, such as the Josephine.

In the absence of any properly organized experimental orchard, it would be very interesting work, and probably very profitable, too, for young orchardists to try varieties of Pear of vigorous constitution, having good bearing habits and preferably of those bearing fruit of the best quality with the object of

discovering a root stock

which would be at least as good as the Williams, and which would be much easier to propagate.

The advocacy for such stocks is put forward for superior reasons than the advocacy of the Northern Spy and Majotin for Apples. The former are recommended for their influence on the tree and fruit, whereas the latter are advocated simply because of their immunity from aphid attacks without consideration for any other influence. Apple growers have only recently begun to awaken to this fact, as we now hear frequent complaints of the deterioration of the Spy stock.

Finally, it is with the object of presenting the initiatory incentive and of extending a helping hand to experimentalists who may thus be induced to try to make further improvements in fruit tree stocks that this paper is written.

Victorian Fruitgrowers' Convention.

Central Association Meets at Frankston.
A Representative Gathering.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the Victorian Fruitgrowers' Central Association was held at Frankston from May 1st to 3rd, under the able chairmanship of Lt.-Col. W. E. James.

There was a representative attendance of delegates from all parts of the State. The Conference was opened by the Assistant-Minister for Water Supply (Mr. Angus), who, in answer to a question, held out little hope of an Orchard Tax Bill until the growers were unanimous on the matter.

Mr. W. H. Everard, M.L.A., urged the developing of the local market, congratulated the Association on the success of the effort to remove the restrictions on selling fruit in Melbourne city; he trusted the suburban shopkeepers would take action to free themselves from similar restrictions.

Respectful references were made to the careers of the late Mr. Tom Petty, and the late Mr. Richard Clay, both of Doncaster.

Case Timber.—Conference adopted a resolution requesting an active re-afforestation policy, and remission of the duty on imported softwood cases when exported.

Railway Matters.—Mr. C. Miscamble, Railway Commissioner, stated that the new louvre trucks would be constructed with wooden, not iron, floors; that cooling paint would be tested on louvre trucks carrying fruit; no reduction in freight or fares was possible at present; case lots of fruit would be carried to suburban stations at goods rates.

Wholesale Market Site.—In view of the proposed removal of the fruit trade from the present site at the Western Market, delegates expressed a desire to have a market, sufficiently large to accommodate the present trade and allow for increase, and that same should be connected by railway.

Mr. H. M. Wade, president (Wholesale Fruit Merchants' Association) gave weighty reasons demonstrating the unsuitability of the suggested transfer to the Victoria Market site.

Mr. Miscamble said that from a railway point of view the Fish Market site was ideal; railway connection could not be made with Victoria Market.

Mr. F. W. Vear believed the Victoria Market to be the best site for concentrating the trade.

On the motion of Messrs. McNab and Lenne (Ardmona) it was resolved—

That we strongly urge the necessity of immediately determining the best site for the new market buildings (to replace the Western), and that a committee be formed to further that object.

State Advisory Board.—Strong condemnation was expressed concerning the action of the Assistant-Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Pennington), in refusing to accept the nomination of the Central Association on the State Advisory Board. A motion was launched by Mr. Lang (Harcourt) in favor of withdrawing should the nominations be again refused.

Mr. Pigott, M.H.A. (Tas.); urged the importance of the State Boards, provided the growers had control.

It was decided—(1) That the Association re-affirms its right to appoint delegates unhampered by the dictation of State Ministers, and (2) That the representation be on a more equitable scale as regards hard fruits, dried, canned, citrus and other fruit.

Fruit Pool.—A committee of all interested met, at which Mr. Pigott (Tas.) presided. It was unanimously decided to ask Mr. Bailey to withdraw his item requesting the appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate the fruit pools. Resolutions were drafted and subsequently adopted by Conference, as follows:—

1. That the Commonwealth Government be urged to get an increased sale of stocks of pool fruits at an attractive price by bringing the fruit into direct touch with consumers, so that there will not be a surplus running into next season.

2. The Commonwealth Government should grant another fruit pool next season, and give the cost of production of the fruit to the growers.

3. That a pool for dried stone fruits be granted by the Commonwealth Government for next season.

4. That Plums, which were excluded from last season's pool, be included in any pool formed.

In reply to Mr. Bailey, who minimised the effect of the sugar position, and declared that tin plate and canning costs had been too high, Mr. Foster (Chairman of the Canned Fruit Pool) stated that whilst sugar was not the only factor affecting the soft fruit industry, it was a very serious one. Canning was only one form in which fruit was processed; fruit not quite up to canning standard was now wasted instead of being made into jam because the sugar costs made jam a luxury. Apart from the factory aspect, the sale of fruit to housewives for jam making was restricted because of the high price of sugar. As regards the price of tin plate and canning costs, these had been most carefully checked by the Department of Trade and Customs before being agreed to. He quoted from a letter showing that in February last sugar

could have been imported, but for the embargo at £10 per ton (duty paid) cheaper than the Australian price; on an estimated consumption of 25,000 tons of sugar for the fruit preserving industry, there was a direct tax on the fruit-growing industry of £250,000; add another 10,000 tons of sugar used by the housewives, and the tax was £350,000.

Grading Regulations.

Members of the committee of the Fruit Exporters' Association attended and gave detailed information relating to the workings of the Commerce Act, under which it was provided that all produce exported should be true to label. Grade marks were disregarded by the buyers; only the quality of the fruit counted.

It was subsequently decided—

"That in the opinion of this Conference the Commerce Act meets all the requirements of the export trade, and that there is no need for further regulations regarding same."

Resolutions were also adopted—

Neglected Orchards.—"That the Fruit Act be more strictly enforced in regard to neglected orchards, and should there be insufficient power under the Act, same to be amended in this particular."—(Diamond Creek.)

Arbitration Awards.—"That Rural Industries be withdrawn by Parliament from the scope of the jurisdiction of the Arbitration Court, and placed under State Wages Board."—(Ardmona.)

Agents' Charges.—"That an effort be made to have the rate of commission charged by Brisbane and Melbourne agents reduced to the same rate as charged by Sydney agents, viz., 7½ per cent."—(Tyabb.)

Pre-cooling Pears.—"That for Pears shipped under Somerset conditions a certificate shall be supplied by the engineer-in-charge of the cool store where the fruit has been pre-cooled to certify that the full three days' pre-cooling has been carried out, and that the fruit be not passed by fruit inspectors until the above is complied with."

Open-Air Markets.—"That this convention expresses appreciation of the action of the Treasurer in subsidising the Metropolitan and District Fruitgrowers' Association in their efforts to extend open-air markets in and around the city, and hopes that he will continue to do so."

"That the high prices charged for spare parts of implements and machinery by importers and local manufacturers be brought under the notice of the Minister for Trade and Customs."—(Narre Warren.)

"That the executive be empowered to confer with the Victorian Farmers' Union or any other political party in any matters affecting the fruitgrowing industry."

"That no association should be allowed a member on the executive unless it was financial to the extent of the number of members on its books,

such books to be available for inspection by the president and secretary."

The affiliation fee for the ensuing year was fixed at 5/- for each member of each affiliated association.

Mr. J. Cronin.—A resolution of sympathy with Mr. J. Cronin (Curator of the Botanic Gardens) in his reduced health, and hope for his full recovery, was carried.

Fruit Shows.—Mr. Jordan stated there was overlapping of dates and efforts, and it was decided, on his resolution, that Show Secretaries be called together with a view to improvements.

Suburban Fruit Shops.—A resolution was adopted—

"That this Convention, believing that every avenue should be open for the sale of fruit, trusts that the shopkeepers in the Melbourne suburbs will speedily petition for the alteration of the regulations under which these shops are now closed at 7 p.m. four nights per week from May to September."

Election of Officers.

Office-bearers were elected as follows:—

President.—Mr. V. R. McNab.

Vice-Presidents.—Messrs. J. G. Aird and G. Mock.

Executive Committee.—Messrs. James Lang, Tully, Mair, Bailey, Foster, and Grant.

Delegates to State Advisory Board.—Messrs. Aird and Bailey, (fresh fruit section).

Mr. F. H. Burbury was re-elected secretary; Mr. E. H. Wragg, treasurer; and Mr. P. T. Young, auditor.

A hearty vote of thanks was carried to the president, secretary, the Press and to all who contributed to the success of the convention.

Bright Social Functions.

The several social functions in connection with the Frankston Conference were greatly appreciated.

The motor tour amongst the beautiful and fertile surrounding districts proved a revelation to the visitors.

Visit to Orchards and Cool Stores.—A warm welcome was extended to the delegates to the convention throughout their stay by the Frankston people. The social arrangements included musical evenings, lunches, trips to orchards and cool stores, and a dinner on the last day.

About 25 cars were provided for the trip. The districts visited included Somerville, Tyabb, Hastings, Bed Hill, Dromana and Mornington. Calls were made at the cool stores in the four first-mentioned districts. The capacity of these stores are 20,000, 32,000, 20,000 and 20,000 cases respectively. All the stores were well filled with Apples and Pears, the main varieties being Jona-

than, Rome Beauty, Delicious and Democrat. Many interesting features were noted at the various stores and the trip proved as educational as it was enjoyable.

Visit to Orchard and Nursery.

A call was made by some of the delegates to the recent Victorian Fruit-growers' Convention at the nurseries and orchards of the Two Bays Nurseries and Orchard Co. Pty. Ltd., which are situated on the Mooraduc railway station. This company has 280 acres of fruit trees in bearing and 200 acres of young trees, mainly export varieties, of Apples and Pears, including (Apples) Jonathan, Delicious, Democrat, Dunn's; (Pears) Williams, Winter Nelia, Capiaumont and Paekham's. A good crop of fruit was harvested this season, 10,000 cases of Apples being exported to London.

Many interesting features were noted in the fruit tree nursery portion of the property, which contains 90 acres for sale this year, and an additional 38 acres of trees budded for 1924 sales. All varieties of deciduous trees are growing in quantities, and it is claimed by the proprietors that they have at present the largest stock of trees ever grown for sale in one season. In all, the Two Bays Company have at Mooraduc 800 acres of freehold property, as well as a considerable area of leasehold land, for nursery purposes.



Delegates and Visitors to the Annual Convention of Victorian Fruitgrowers Central Association, Frankston.

The company's activities do not stop at Mooroduc, for they have 48 acres of nursery under citrus and vines at Nyah (Vic.). Their stock in this district comprises 70,000 young citrus trees, and about a quarter million of vines in all stages of growth.

Mr. Chas. Griffith, managing director of the company, recently toured the United States, and we expect in our next edition to publish an account of his observations in the various fruit-growing centres visited.

Wheeler's Hill (Vic.).

Wheeler's Hill—The Elinora Orchard has had a fairly good season. This large property of 13,000 Apples and Pear trees is now coming into bearing, and this season exported to London, Hong Kong, Singapore, Samarang and Java.

Refrigeration to Hong Kong was hard to get, but space for a few hundreds of cases was obtained, and fair prices realized.

Especial care was taken in grading and packing, and each Apple was wrapped in tissue paper imprinted with Chinese characters descriptive of the product.

The excellent price of 30/- per case for Cox Orange Pippin was obtained in London, and Apples such as Red Reinette and McIntosh. Red also brought good prices.

A tractor, motor lorry and two motor sprayers assist in keeping things up to concert pitch.

The nearness of the orchard (only 15 miles from Melbourne) to local markets helps in the rapid disposal of the crop whilst the opportunity to dispose of case lots to suburban residents was availed of.

Direct delivery from the orchard to the purchasers door encourages business and it is gratifying to find that householders welcome the chance of getting cases of Apples or Pears at reasonable prices, without payment of excessive delivery charges. The Elinora model orchards are owned by Messrs. Sydney and Aubrey Stott, who continue to introduce latest methods and the best appliances to achieve results. Very little trouble has been experienced as regards hired assistance as the orchard is practically in an outer suburb of the metropolis.

DRIED FRUIT HARVEST.

A Record Yield.

It is estimated that the 1923 harvest of Currants and Raisins from the Merbein districts was 17,000 tons, as against 12,000 tons last year. Heavy crops were also harvested from the other dried fruit area of Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales and Western Australia. Further figures will be published shortly.

CO-OPERATIVE COMPANY IN TROUBLE.

Stormy Meeting of Victorian Orchardists' Co-op. Co.

Directors Resign: Committee of Management Appointed.

An extraordinary meeting of shareholders of the Victorian Orchardists' Co-operative Association Ltd. was held on May 15. Over fifty shareholders attended. The proceedings, at times, were stormy.

The chairman (Mr. J. Hume Cook) after mentioning the difficulties of the company, through having only limited capital, said that the present unfortunate position was due to the unauthorized purchases of former employees. One manager purchased £10,000 worth of paper, at highest prices, without the knowledge or sanction of the directors; another purchased £10,000 worth of Passion Fruit, placed same in cool store, and pretended it was there on consignment.

Shareholders freely criticised the directors for their laxity; one speaker declared they were negligent, or incapable. Ordinary people were well aware of certain happenings, of which the directors appeared to be ignorant.

Mr. F. Thomas said it was useless to cry over spilt milk. After 12 years it would be a backward step to go into liquidation. Growers should have more courage, reconstruct the company, and give it a new trial.

Mr. Topping moved—

That the resignation of the directors be accepted, and a committee of six be appointed at this meeting to carry on the business till the next annual meeting; and, in the meantime, prepare a report on the condition of the company, to be presented at a special meeting within two months.

An amendment in favor of filling the two vacancies on the board, and that confidence be expressed in the present directors, was defeated by a large majority.

A further amendment by Mr. Pratt, that a committee of six should be appointed to act with the directors, and inquire into and report on the affairs of the company, was also lost.

Mr. Topping's motion was then put, and carried by an overwhelming majority.

Messrs. A. A. Thomas, F. Thomas (Bunyip), W. J. Nankervis (Diamond Creek), H. J. Rix (Officer), S. Stott (Wheeler's Hill), and G. J. Apted (Arthur's Creek), were elected to the committee of management.

"Hullo, sir!" said the fishmonger to Smyth, "had any luck to-day?" "Not a single bite," said the angler, "so I want you to pick me out six of your largest trout and throw them to me, will you?" "Certainly, sir, but why throw them?" "So that I can tell the missus I caught them, of course. I may be a rotten fisherman, but I'm no liar."

FRUIT DISTRIBUTION FAILURE.

Household Supplies Pty. Ltd. in Liquidation.

Losses said to be about £10,000.

"Bad Management and Carelessness."

Details are slowly coming to light regarding the operations of the Household Supplies Pty. Ltd., Melbourne (in liquidation), the main object of which company was to distribute berry and other fruits direct from grower to consumer, thus eliminating middlemen's profits.

At a meeting of creditors held during May, at which Mr. T. C. Walker, the liquidator, presided, a statement of affairs was submitted, showing a deficiency of £5,358. As the assets were considered to be over-valued and the liabilities not fully stated, it was estimated at the meeting that the losses approached £10,000.

The chairman stated that claims from 91 fruitgrowers totalled £2,244, and 20 additional claims had been received.

In explaining the figures with which he had been supplied, which he criticised severely, the chairman said that the cause of the failure appeared to have been bad management and carelessness.

In answer to Mr. Valentine (Mt. Dandenong), Mr. F. J. Cox (Managing Director of Household Supplies Pty. Ltd.), stated that he had not handed over all the books of the Co. to the liquidator. Mr. Valentine stated that he had examined the accounts and had found them inaccurate.

Mr. Cox stated that contributing causes of the failure were the delivery of poor fruit by growers, and his own illness. Growers strenuously denied Cox's complaint of inferior fruit.

The meeting was a very stormy one, and many uncomplimentary epithets were hurled at Cox. The chairman said a full statement would be prepared and submitted to counsel, and then taken to the Supreme Court.

Harcourt (17/5/23).

Harvesting operations are now complete, a good crop of fruit being gathered. Thanks to the abundant water supply, the fruit is of good size and quality. The cool stores are full (80,000 cases), many growers being unable to obtain all the space they required. Forty-seven thousand cases were shipped to the English markets, and the returns for the first shipment per a.s. "Orsova" shows a range of prices from 12/- to 16/-. Advices from London, of 12th April, state that the Hon. H. S. W. Lawson, Premier of Victoria, will visit Covent Garden the following week to inspect Harcourt fruit and inquire into fruit matters generally.

Fruit Growing Under Irrigation.

Plough early and deeply — Seasonable hints re

Oranges — Orchard drainage.

By Our Special Correspondent

AS MID-WINTER APPROACHES the ploughing of orchards commences in earnest. Where possible, many growers prefer to give two ploughings, one in early winter, and the other in late winter or early spring.

Year after year, one sees orchards that have not been ploughed until the winter is over, growers gambling on good spring rains to carry out this work. This is a dangerous practice, especially in the mid-Murray Valley areas as spring rains of a soaking character cannot be relied upon. The common result is, — the ground dries out rapidly under the warm spring sun, as the surface soil has become more or less consolidated during autumn and winter with the consequent result that capillary action goes on unhindered.

Under these conditions the soil which has become dry and consolidated can only be ploughed with great difficulty, and in many cases has to be abandoned until the first irrigation is received.

This practice is not seen on isolated holdings, but is noticed to a more or less degree on many places; if growers stopped to count the loss in hard cash in the coming crop through such a faulty practice, they would be amazed.

Where the soil is ploughed very late the trees and vines are often holding out signals in distress in the way of wilted leaves before the first irrigation is received.

Perhaps the citrus trees show the signals earlier than any other of our plants grown to commercial purposes along the Murray Valley; a great proportion of the leaves are at times shed as also is the crop of newly formed Oranges.

The grower may through this poor policy of late ploughing, sacrifice 50 per cent or more of the coming crop.

The grower finding his orchard suffering for the want of water, and the ground difficult to plough, when he receives the first irrigation of the season gives a heavy watering.

What is the result of such a practice?

The roots gathering up the moisture from the soil, send up a flush of sap to the leaves and fruit, the cells of which have become more or less hardened, and dry. The cells are unable to expand sufficiently rapidly to hold this increased flow of sap, many of them collapse causing fruit and leaves to fall.

I believe that the cause of the young Currants and many of the Sultana Grapes falling after they are apparently set, and the tips of some of the bunches withering, may be found to a great degree in the fluctuations of sap flow.

From this I do not wish to imply that, where the fruit is shedding badly that the grower has failed to plough at the right period, as there are other factors besides that which influence sap supply. Climatic conditions, character of the soil, and disease also tend to influence it.

In speaking of shedding of Sultana berries I do not mean the natural shedding that takes place at blossoming time, but after the fruit has set.

* * *

WHY DO WE PLOUGH?

To open up the soil to allow the free entrance of moisture and air.

To retain the moisture in the soil.

To encourage bacterial action, which assists in bringing dormant food materials into soluble form.

To encourage root activity.

The aeration of the soil is an important factor, and one not readily understood by the average grower; one can understand the necessity of water in the soil to maintain the sap supply, but why air? *Oxygen is just as necessary to the roots of the plants as it is to other life*; oxygen is necessary for the soil bacteria, and assists in forming the weak organic acids which in turn act upon dormant plant food, making it available. It also tends to sweeten the soil that may have become more or less sour.

Soil that is ploughed early allows the winter's rains to soak down into the sub-soil and, when the land is cultivated and brought into a fine tilth in the spring, surface evaporation is reduced to a minimum and the maximum of water is retained.

Soils should be worked deeply to encourage the trees and vines to root deeply. This statement I know will receive much opposition from some growers, especially citrus men. The general impression is that the trees are more or less surface rooters, but that depends to a large extent upon the grower himself; shallow cultivation means shallow rooted trees, and likewise deep cultivation means deep rooted trees.

Well, how about the surface roots found at the end of winter in citrus groves that are ploughed deeply?

These roots develop during the autumn and winter, but if left undisturbed are of little use in our hot summer climate, as most of them perish through heat, and the trees depend upon the lower roots for their sap supply.

Deep ploughing and thorough cultivation are two factors that go hand in

hand with irrigation, and tend to reduce the risk of seepage.

Firstly, a deeply ploughed soil thoroughly cultivated during the summer retains the maximum of moisture.

Secondly, the vines and trees are deeper rooted on such land.

Deep rooted trees and vines are better able to withstand the effects of hot weather than the trees whose roots are near the surface, owing to being down in cool soil and having a greater area from which to draw moisture.

The danger of seepage is lessened, as deeply tilled land retains its moisture over a longer period than does a shallow worked one, this being so, the periods between irrigations can be extended.

Where shallow ploughing is practised frequent waterings are necessary to keep the plants in good growing condition. The land being more or less hard within a few inches of the surface, the irrigation keeps the water running for a long period to allow the hard sub-soil to absorb moisture. The consequent result is that the water is held up in large quantities at the lower end of the holding or in hollows, from which source seepage may develop through excessive watering.

* * * ORANGE NOTES.

THE ORANGE SEASON is just opening and probably as in other years half ripe fruit will be rushed on to the market in the early season to command high prices. One often wonders if such a practice is advisable; certainly a few early cases bring good returns, but, doubtless, the next sales are affected as the public will be wary about purchasing fruit until they are assured that it contains a fair proportion of sugar.

Oranges should not be gathered until the skins are wholly covered with orange, and the juice has reached a stage when the acid and sugar contents are well blended.

The fruit should never be pulled from the tree as the skin around the stem end is more or less bruised by such an operation, this leads to the entrance of moulds, which soon destroy the fruit.

The Orange should be held in the left hand, and the stem cut with secateurs, the stem will need to be cut a second time in order to remove as much as possible of the remaining stalk, so that there will be no projecting points to scar and puncture the skins of other fruits.

In making the second cut, care must be exercised to prevent the point of the shears puncturing the skin.

Special Orange picking shears, with curve blades and rounded ends are on the market, and should always be used in harvesting citrus fruits.

The future development of the citrus industry depends upon

establishing export markets

and to do this the grower must be prepared to do his utmost in handling the fruit with the greatest possible care. We are apt to place all the blame for the fruit arriving on the export markets in

poor condition upon the packers. Certainly, they have their share of the responsibility of packing the fruit without damaging it.

From personal observation, one is led to think that a great deal of damage is done before the fruit reaches the packer.

The fruit should be handled when harvesting with gloved hands, and should be placed carefully in the picking box, which should have the bottom covered with hessian to prevent bruising the fruit on the hard wood. Never drop the fruit, as even with a small drop the tender oil cells may be ruptured, and a point of entrance for decay be established. One damaged Orange in a case will be the centre from which moulds will extend, and damage many fruits.

Only pack the best of fruits; all scarred and damaged specimens should be discarded. The large overgrown fruits are not liked on the oversea markets, the medium sized Oranges being in greatest command and return the best prices.

Always pack on the *diagonal pack*, as the fruit carries better in this way than when packed on the square.

For the local markets, especially where the fruit has to be shipped or railed from any distance, great care should also be exercised in handling and packing, in order that the fruit may be placed on the market in good keeping condition.

GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENTAL ORCHARD, BERRI, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Drainage Tests.

A portion of the Berri Experimental Orchard has been rendered sterile as the result of the presence of an excess of salt in the soil. An underground drainage scheme has been planned and carried out on the orchard with a view to the gradual removal of the salt. Although the whole drainage scheme was not completed until April 27, some of the drains have been functioning since November. A careful record is being kept of the quantities of water flowing from the drains, and analyses are being made from time to time in order to determine the amount of salt that is being removed.

The Director of Agriculture states that between November 13 and March 30, the drains discharged approximately 142,417 gallons of water, which on analysis was shown to have removed from the soil 3 tons 15 cwt. 45 lbs. of soluble salt, consisting mainly of common salt, 4,393 lb.; glauher salt, 2,394 lb.; magnesium carbonate, 666 lb.; black alkali, 613 lb.; lime, 182 lb. These results are looked upon as satisfactory, but it is hoped that they will be improved upon next year, when the whole of the drainage system will be able to function.

APPLE AND PEAR GRADING REGULATIONS.

The New Proposals.

Color Requirements in "Special" Grade Only.

The matter of Apple and Pear grading regulations has formed a subject of controversy for several years, and strong opinions are held by both those who favor them and those who believe the Commerce Act regulations are sufficient.

The regulations as recently gazetted by the Commonwealth Government have been deemed unworkable, and are at present suspended. These gazetted regulations will in all probability now be superseded by the regulations hereunder, seeing they have been adopted by recent conferences:—

Draft of Proposed Grading Regulations.

Apples or Pears intended for export shall be packed in accordance with such one of the following sets of conditions as is applicable to the description of the fruit. In all such sets of conditions the Apples or Pears shall be packed in such a manner as shall, in the opinion of the examining officer, render it unlikely for them to sustain damage during transit to their destination. When so packed the outer layers or shown surfaces shall be a true indication of the average of the fruit throughout the package.

"Special" Grade.

Apples and Pears describable as "special" shall consist of sound, clean, well-formed Apples or Pears of one size or one variety with skins unbroken and free from all disease, and in so far as Apples are concerned, shall consist of Apples showing good color for variety. Superficial blemishes caused by hail marks, limb rubs, and sprays, shall not be allowed to a greater extent than 5 per cent. of the total fruit in any case or package. The Apples or Pears shall not measure less than 2½ in. in diameter.

The grades "Standard" and "Plain" are exactly as published previously in the "Fruit World" of September, 1922.

Notes from the Pomological Committee Meeting of 1923

This meeting was held at the Department of Agriculture, in Melbourne, this month. A fuller report will be given later; but some brief notes may now be given.

The meeting was a notable one. Not only were growers, officials, and nurserymen present, but representatives of the canning and jam factories attended to assist in the deliberations. For the first time since the Committee began its work in 1913, every State of the Commonwealth was represented by Government officials.

In addition, there was a larger attendance of members and visitors than

at any other of the meetings previously held. These points all show the increased interest being taken in the work of the Committee; and opinions were freely expressed that this body is now doing valuable work for growers and nurserymen in Australia.

Several State sub-committee meetings were held during the year. South Australia had a special meeting to consider the Trevatt Apricot. Many years ago, this Apricot was grown commercially at Mildura, and then in absence of any knowledge of its correct name, Mr. W. J. Allen, who was then at Mildura, named it after Mr. Trevatt, who then grew it in considerable quantity.

The South Australian sub-committee, having investigated the matter thoroughly, are of opinion that the Trevatt Apricot is identical with an Apricot sent out 40 years ago by Mr. Edwin Smith, nurseryman, of Leewood Garden, Glen Osmond and Clifton Nurseries, Walkerville. The Apricot was known as Leewood Perfection. The fruits of this and of Trevatt, develop and ripen simultaneously at Blackwood Orchard, South Australia, and the wood, foliage, and stones are considered identical.

The Victorian sub-committee presented a report regarding a new Raspberry—Exton Late—it is considered that this Raspberry will, by its lateness, extend the Raspberry picking season by about one month.

Special permission was given by the Quarantine Department, on account of their scientific value, for the admission of three Apple fruits from New Zealand. The Apples were under quarantine, and the balance, after testing, were destroyed. The Apples had been specially bred for flavour by Mr. H. R. Wright, of Avondale, near Auckland, whose name as a nurseryman is not unknown to Australians. Several of his fruits, especially Wright's Early Plum, have been on our lists for years.

The Apples were sent by Mr. Wright under a sealed key, it being his wish that the Committee might express an opinion as to their parentage, when sampling the fruits. The Committee were right in naming some of the parents. Of the three samples, two possessed both good flavour and colour. The third sample was a sport from No. 2, and was not considered worthy of perpetuation.

No. 1 was the result of a cross from Delicious (female) and Cox's Orange Pippin (male). It is reputed to be blight-proof, a strong, sturdy grower with a good habit of growth. The colour of the Apple was good, the yellow skin being strongly marked with deep streaks of rich crimson and almost purple colour. The flavour somewhat resembled the male parent, but it was not quite so rich.

No. 2 was the result of a cross between Ribston Pippin (female) and Northern Spy (male). It is reputedly blight-proof, a vigorous grower, and a heavy cropper, having something of the spy habit of growth. The colour streaks and splashes were again marked, so

much so that a resemblance to Nick-a-jack was suggested. The flavour again was good.

The Committee commended Mr. Wright's work and enterprise, and hoped to see the fruits again.

The Committee have had under review for several years the question of colour sports of Apples. This year the matter was definitely decided by the following resolution, which was carried unanimously:—

"That the Nurserymen's Associations of the various States be notified that the Pomological Committee of Australia does not recognize colour sports of Apples as distinct varieties. Nurserymen are therefore requested to catalogue these only as colour sports of a particular variety."

This decision will have a far-reaching effect, for it will mean the elimination from lists of such varieties as Glengyle Red, Takapuna Russet, and others. It also means that on the show bench, it will not be permissible to display Rome Beauty and one of its colour sports as two varieties. Three very fine specimens were shown by Mr. C. H. Seelenmeyer, of Harcourt, named Ohio Red Rome, Washington Red Rome, and C.H.S., selected Red Rome. They were all of good colour, but the last-mentioned sport was considered the best. The colour was very rich and distributed evenly all over the Apple.

Mr. Frank Walker, of Launceston, sent a sport from Delicious, named Red Delicious. The fruit was identical with Delicious Apple in shape and flavour, but the colour was of a very deep and rich dark crimson, almost of the depth of colour of Hoover Apple, but of a richer crimson. The Committee considered this a notable sport.

They Say

That our Tasmanian correspondent, in this issue, gives some useful hints regarding pruning, liming, manuring, and drainage.

That if all the good intentions expressed at the recent conferences are fulfilled (or one-tenth of them) the industry will receive substantial benefit.

That Mr. L. J. Lipscombe, of Croydon, Vic., has great faith in the possibilities of shipping Pears to New York direct from Australia, and has planted accordingly. The varieties include Beurre Bosc, Packham's Triumph, Winter Cole, Howell, and others.

That the "Fruit World" appreciates the many kind expressions of confidence and appreciation given utterance to at the recent Fruitgrowers' Conferences.

"You want more money? Why, my boy, I worked for three years for sixteen dollars a month right here in this establishment, and now I'm owner of it."

"Well, see what happened to your boss. No man who treats his help that way can hang on to his business."

Queensland.

Seasonable Crop and Cultural Notes.

Activity of the Council of Agriculture.

(By our Correspondent)

CONGENIAL WEATHER CONDITIONS have stimulated a late growth, particularly amongst young Citrus trees, and also had the effect of much improving the quality of the crop on bearing trees, particularly Mandarins, and the latter varieties of Oranges.

As the fruit is removed from the trees, pruning and spraying should follow. It is generally accepted that amongst evergreen trees the proper time for general pruning is immediately following the removal of crop.

With young trees, however, the season must be varied according to local conditions, as the operation consists of thinning out or removing surplus growth which is incentive to an early start, consequently, in districts where there is liability of frost injury (which may completely destroy the tree) pruning should be deferred until spring. Similar features should be considered in planting.

Nurseries are carrying a large stock of young trees, in fact, much in excess of the demands.

More prominence has recently been given to the *Grape Fruit* (citrus decumana), and some very palatable fruit is obtainable, but a cross between this and the Seville Orange, mostly with the characteristics of the latter having previously monopolised the market under the name of Grape Fruit, was very prejudicial to the genuine article.

The Grape Fruit, really a small and improved type of Shaddock, has much to commend it both medicinally and as a dessert. The best quality fruit is produced under tropical or semi-tropical conditions and though the tree is subject to practically all pests which attack the Orange, (with the exception up to now of fruit fly) the tree being much more vigorous in constitution is more readily kept clean.

There is every indication of a heavy winter crop of *Pineapples*, to assist in the disposal of which the State cannery is likely to be requisitioned with dehydrated Pineapples.

The experimental stage seems to have been satisfactorily overcome, and some very fine product also of Bananas and other fruits have been submitted by Mr. Morton as a result of the plant at Nambour.

Despite the annual mid-season glut, the Pineapple still holds a prominent place in the estimation of the fruitgrower, many new plantations being added to the list last season.

Owing to the effects of protracted dry spell *Bananas* are much below the average, both in quantity and quality. Suit-

able areas of land (other than such as are reserved for re-afforestation), for extension of Banana planting are not plentiful in Southern Queensland.

To the uninitiated the fact of looking up large areas in reasonably accessible situations, of the most fertile lands for timber reserves, and planting therein young trees which can not for any timber purpose be of reasonable utility for at least twenty years seems a rather short sighted policy.

One would be inclined to suggest that such lands within convenient distance of rail transport would be utilised for agricultural or horticultural purposes, and that planting would be confined to the less accessible, but equally suitable areas which could be tapped by rail or tramway when circumstances warranted the extensions.

The distribution and marketing of fruit crops have been responsible for the formation of various co-operative concerns,—theoretically perfect, but mostly failing in application. The Southern Queensland Fruitgrowers' Society Ltd., made a much better showing and at a minimum of cost secured innumerable benefits to growers. Changes however, are pending. The Agricultural Council, in furtherance of the policy to solely control the marketing and distribution of agricultural and horticultural products, recently advertised for 14 agents to represent that number of districts into which the State had been divided.

Should expectations be realised the cost of marketing will be most appreciably reduced, and the regulation of supplies, also distribution, result in improved average prices.

Suggestions have been made by various organisations that the Council could with advantage absorb the greater part (and functions) of the Agricultural Department. So far as applied to the fruit branch the subject is most favourably considered by those most concerned, for, though recent changes and the addition of Messrs. Ward and Rowlands to the staff are much appreciated by the growers, it is recognised that the best efforts of an efficient staff are quite inadequate to counterbalance the effect of indifferent administration.

The very parlous state of the industry from whatever aspect it is approached loudly acclaims the necessity for the appreciation of modern intelligence.

MARCUS AURELIUS ANTONIUS

has said:—"Pass through this little space of time conformably to Nature, and end thy journey in content." He is a counsel which mankind may well follow, but the fitness of old age and its blessings are only for those who in youth and middle age have kept themselves healthy. Among the worst pests that attack humanity are ills of the Liver and Digestive Organs. A.M.S. Digestive and Liver Tonic will cure you of these troubles. It is the most effective remedy dispensed. Try it, and you will have health and happiness and bless nature who produced you. Sold by all chemists and country storekeepers, 3/-; by post, 3/6. Manufactured by T. A. Dickson, chemist, Geelong, Vic.

Tasmania.

New Grading Regulations—Pruning—Manuring—Drainage.

(By Our Correspondent.)

THE EXPORT SEASON to United Kingdom for 1923 was brought to a close on 12th May, by the "Hobson's Bay" shipment of 65,000 cases. The total quantity sent forward this year has eclipsed all previous records, over 1,500,000 cases of fruit being exported.

Prices for the earlier shipments, which have come to hand are very disappointing, and the low returns are ascribed to the large amount of American fruit that was still on the market, and prevalence of "bitter pit" in early consignments; also to the fact that a large quantity of immature fruit went forward.

Later cables show that the markets are improving. It is to be hoped that the average prices over the season will show a profitable margin, otherwise many growers will be in financial difficulty.

GRADING REGULATIONS.

As Tasmanian supplies nearly two-thirds of the total quantity exported, her delegates were able to give close first-hand information to the conferences, and especially having had practical experience of colour grading, they could show the impracticability of the idea.

The grades decided upon are simple, but should be effective; moreover, they will allow the trade to proceed on its merits without giving any particular State an undue advantage.

Trade with the East.—Advice to hand state that a large cold store is to be constructed at Singapore, primarily for holding frozen meat from Queensland and N.S.W. On completion one of the chief difficulties of exporting fresh fruit will be surmounted as, although suitable means of carriage from Australian ports may be obtained the question of holding the fruit at the distributing port has been a serious handicap. A number of Tasmanian fruitgrowers are already considering the possibilities of forwarding shipments on consignment. The Federal Government could be of real assistance to the fruit industry in cases such as this, by giving help in the initial stages of the enterprise; it is through the development of such markets as this that the fruitgrower will be able to find an outlet for the increased production in future years.

Brown Heart Investigation.—The Tasmanian State Fruit Advisory Board has been carrying on this investigation and finally determined to send their own investigator (Mr. F. Wakefield) with his apparatus for testing temperatures and atmospheres in the s.s. "Port Pirie." Mr. Wakefield's instruments are of an original nature, and are specially constructed for the purposes in view.

Embargo on Apple Imports.—This

question was again before the Australian Fruit Conference, with a view to allowing Canadian Apples to enter Australia. Reciprocal trade within the Empire, wherever possible, is certainly a very laudable objective; but the question is very far-reaching.

T. STOTT & SONS

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A Trial Consignment solicited from Growers in all States.

Prompt Settlement.

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We are the Leading Australian Firm of
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Assurance Corporation,
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Outside of the danger of the possible introduction of disease or pests, the position of the Australian Apple grower must be weighed. Large sums have been invested by both the State Governments

and private companies in cold stores to extend the Apple season as long as possible. During the last few years the average grower has been able to make a small margin of profit over the season, mainly through the marketing of late varieties held in cold store, and if quantities of imported fruit were allowed to be dumped on the market at this period it would perhaps make all the difference between profit and loss to the grower with fruit in cold storage.

The whole matter must be approached with caution, and all the pros and cons considered before commitment to a policy which may be disastrous.

Orchard Notes.

Pruning may be carried out at any time during the month.

Commencement should be made on stone fruits, following on to Apples and Pears.

Many growers are pruning trees, such as Apricots, Cherries, Peaches, in late autumn. It is found that at this period there is less susceptibility to gumming, the cuts callousing and sealing better than when carried out when the tree is quite dormant.

Liming.—Now is the time to make applications of lime where needed.

Lime is one of the most important elements of plant life, and is generally deficient in Tasmanian orchard soils.

Besides improving the soil texture, by chemical action, it will release and make available other elements that may not in their present state be assimilable as plant food.

Applications may be made at the rate of 12 cwt. and upwards to the acre, according to the condition and character of soil.

The use of a lime spreader is desirable, and will simplify the matter of spreading.

"Roche," or fresh burnt lime is recommended as the best form of application.

Water furrows.—These should be run out between the rows of trees in order to help carry off surface water. When forming same, it is best to avoid the lines of underground drainage, otherwise the scour may cause injury to the drain and cause stoppages.

Manuring.—Such manures as blood and bone mixture, bone meal, farm yard or other organic manures, are best applied during the winter months, if the full benefit is to be obtained the following season.

It is a good plan to go through the orchard at this period and give all weakly or unsatisfactory trees a good dressing of such manures. This will be an economy to the grower that cannot go in for a broadcast application, and will ensure that the trees most in need will receive their requirements.

Drains.—All drains, both open and underground, should receive attention and preparations be made for possible eventualities. Drains will require to have a free outlet for a flow of water into the mains and all rubbish, weeds, etc., which may block the passage of the flow should be removed.

Citrus Growers' Conference

PAST SEASON REVIEWED.

LOWER EXPENSES NEXT SEASON.

HOPEFUL PROSPECTS FOR GROWERS.

What was regarded as one of the most successful conferences of recent years in connection with the Citrus Industry, was held in Melbourne, on April 26th and 27th, 1923.

The news that expenses for the coming season would be substantially less than those of last year was also enthusiastically received by delegates. Many important matters were dealt with.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

The Conference was held at Melbourne. Mr. H. Keek, M.L.C., was in the chair the first day. Mr. Stanley Brentnall presided the second day.

DELEGATES PRESENT.

VICTORIA:

Mildura District.—Capt. W. D. B. Halhed, Messrs. A. E. Smart, K. A. Goodland.
Curlwaa District (N.S.W.).—Mr. N. H. Underwood.
Bamawm District.—Mr. S. Brentnall.
Tresco District.—Mr. Gerald Mussen.
Riverside District.—Mr. T. J. O'Brien.
Kyabram District.—Messrs. J. M. Jacobs, A. J. Wood.
Shepparton District.—Mr. Ritchie Brown.
Cobram District.—Mr. P. Rossiter.
Echuca District.—Mr. F. W. Howell.
Mr. W. E. Branson (V.C.C.A. Market Representative).

NEW SOUTH WALES:

Major H. B. Hallard (N.S.W. Citrus Growers' Co-operative Association).

SOUTH AUSTRALIA:

Mr. J. A. Parkes (Murray Citrus Growers' Co-operative Association).

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS:

Mr. S. A. Cock, Citriculturist.
Mr. M. J. Canny, Outdoor Superintendent of the Railways.
Mr. E. Meeking, Senior Exports Officer.
An apology was read from Mr. B. J. Watson, of Perricoota.

The report of the Secretary, Mr. B. S. B. Cook dealt comprehensively with the London Market. Account sales, Packing Sheds, Census, Melbourne Agents, Growers Supplies and cases, etc., and was adopted.

Major Hallard gave an account of the lines on which the New South Wales Citrus Growers had been organised into a Central Association. They had made every effort to have Packing Houses established, and it was on the basis of these that the organisation had been formed. It was a limited liability company. Only Packing House companies or growers who had at least a 5,000 case production were eligible for membership. Ten Packing House Companies and a few large growers had joined up. They anticipated handling

200,000 cases of standardised citrus fruits, which would be the cream of the Sydney market. The Packing Sheds and equipment cost about £600 each. Gosford had its shed on railway land, but several other sheds were miles away from the railways. Each member of a Packing Shed was required to take up a £2 share for every bearing acre of citrus fruit, (2/6 on application, 2/6 on allotment, and 2/6 in calls over 1 years). Growers were bound for three years to send their fruit only to the Packing Shed, and the Company had the right to deduct the calls from proceeds of fruit.

The Mangrove Mountain Shed was 45 x 60 ft. and cost £350 to erect. Mandarins were graded into 5 grades, and Oranges 4. Each grower got a docket setting out the weight received, and all fruit was pooled. He found that better returns came to the growers as a result of the fruit going to Packing Houses. They used Lomas and Penang graders. The Central Association was a non-profit making concern. Each Packing Shed contributed £10 share capital to the central organisation, and a case levy not exceeding 3d. The Central organisation did not do any buying of requirements for growers. Generally speaking, the crop this year in N.S.W. would be smaller than last year. No fruit would be shipped to Melbourne without consultation with the V.C.C.A. (Applause.) It was proposed to limit the number of agents and to ask Packing Houses for nominations in order that a selection might be made.

Mr. Parkes said he was sure the visit of Mr. Mussen and the Secretary to districts had done a vast amount of good. Last season's shipments to London by S.A., covering 14,000 cases, were regarded by some as disappointing. All the shipments resulted in small credits, excepting the last, on which there was a loss of £210. It was an experimental season, and the majority thought it was satisfactory. This season their crop was light, and it was at first intended to ship only 5,000 cases abroad, but they had now decided to increase the total to 10,000. (Applause.)

An interesting experiment was being made in South Australia in the establishment of a Lemon By-Products Factory. The growers had agreed to put up £300, and the Government had pro-

mised a pound for pound subsidy. They had an Italian expert in charge, and if the experiment were a success they intended to form a large company.

Mr. Canny said that the Railways Commissioners were anxious to assist the growers in the provision of Packing Sheds, but they must have them on a business footing. They required a proper guarantee that the money expended would be repaid. They would be glad to lease sites in station yards, and to provide siding frontages, charging 10/- per foot of frontage, or the railways would erect the sheds and charge a rent to cover cost.

Mr. Cock gave an analysis of figures relating to last season's export, in which he commented on the number of cases containing wasty fruit which he considered excessive. After consultation with Mr. Adam, the Cool Store Fruit Experimentalist, he was of the opinion that as the season advanced the deterioration increased.

Census.

It was resolved that all District Secretaries be urgently requested to expedite the forwarding of the census forms to the Central Office.

Melbourne Marketing.

The following motions were carried—

"That the fixing of District quotas be left to the Executive in consultation with the Market Representative."

"That during the coming season all fruit be consigned to the V.C.C.A."

Appointment of Agents.

Captain Halhed moved—

"That all citrus fruit for the Melbourne market be consigned to the V.C.C.A. with the understanding that all members shall be allowed to specify the particular agent or agents by whom they wish their fruit to be sold, and that in the event of any agent or agents being overloaded at any time the V.C.C.A. shall have the right to switch any member's fruit to his first or second preference among the agents."

Mr. Goodland seconded the motion.

Mr. Jacobs said Kyabram was in favor of the number of agents being fixed at 10.

Mr. O'Brien said Riverside favored the Mildura resolution, providing the number of agents was not increased beyond eight.

Mr. Underwood said Curlwaa supported the Mildura resolution, but did not favour any proposal to increase the number. There were a few growers, however, who had not joined the Association, because the agents they favoured had not been selected.

Mr. Branson opposed the resolution. It would mean that 20 or 30 agents might have to be appointed.

Mr. Brown said Shepparton was in

much the same position as Mildura. Personally he was against increasing the number of agents, but if it were a question of losing members, it was more important to increase the number of agents.

Mr. Mussen suggested the addition to the motion of the words "provided that such agents are approved by the Executive." He pointed out that this was only the second year of the Association, and the experimental stage had not been passed.

Captain Halhed accepted Mr. Mussen's addition to the motion, which was then carried by 8 votes to 1.

Mr. Mussen suggested that the agents be selected now, provided they entered into the usual agreement. Districts should be advised that growers should consign to as few agents as possible.

Mr. Parkes moved—

"That in view of the expression of opinion by Districts and the resolution carried at the instance of the Mildura District, last year's agents be approved, subject to their signing the V.C.C.A. agreement, provided that further agents may be nominated by any District Association for approval by the Executive, but Conference recommends that no further nomination of agents be made unless the interests of their Districts necessitate such additional nomination."

Seconded by Mr. Brentnall, and carried.

In view of the foregoing motion, proposals by the Baramulla District to reduce the selling commission to 5 per cent., and by the Riverside District to reduce the number of agents to seven were withdrawn.

Market Representative.

Mr. W. E. Branson was re-appointed.

Royal Agricultural Show.

Mr. Mussen explained that in addition to the District Competition the V.C.C.A. proposed to have a working exhibit showing the grading and packing of Oranges, and that permission had been granted to effect sales in case lots. It was also intended to have an Orange drinking fountain in operation.

Long Bushel Case.

Mr. O'Brien moved—

"That the restriction on the use of the long bushel case shall not apply to Mandarins or Lemons."

Seconded by Mr. Smart, and carried.

Standard Case.

Mr. Brentnall moved—

"That this Conference recommends the adoption of a standard case as defined by the Agricultural Department, provided that time be given to allow members to dispose of cases in hand."

He favoured the Simper case, which was vastly superior to the hardwood dump.

The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Brien, and carried.

Fruit Standard.

On the motion of Messrs. Mussen and Branson it was decided:—

"That the Conference requests the Department of Agriculture to secure the passing of a regulation prohibiting the sale of immature Oranges or dry citrus fruit in this State, and that it requests Agricultural Departments in other States to bring in similar regulations."

Export.

Mr. Mussen said that judging by the experience of the past season there was no doubt that with proper care by the grower, and attention on the ship, Oranges could be landed in good condition on the other side of the world.

last year; a saving would be made by using plain sulphite tissue instead of waxed wraps, and which experience had shown had nothing special to recommend it, and there would be a further reduction of 2/- by cutting out all risk insurance, and insuring only against total loss through wreck, etc., or breakdown of refrigeration machinery. The Association could carry its own insurance against deterioration by a levy of about 6d. per case on export, which should be sufficient to pay the grower out of pocket expenses, and say 3/- in addition, so that the grower would not be altogether a loser. The savings he had outlined should make it possible to decrease the costs from 18/6 to 12/6 or 13/- per case.

Mr. Smart: Does that include District packing charges?



Delegates to Victorian Central Citrus Association Conference

One thing was clear, and that was the necessity for Central Packing Sheds everywhere. In three or four years' time quantities would be produced enormously in excess of Australian requirements. A new District at Lake Kangaroo alone had 1,000 acres planted with citrus, which would be able to supply in a few years all the Navel's Melbourne market could absorb. The future of the industry must therefore rest on export. Last season, under abnormally bad conditions, in London sound V.C.C.A. fruit realised from 18/- to 50/- per case, the latter price being for an October experimental shipment, the success of which surprised everybody. He thought they could reasonably look forward to at least £1 a case on the average. Last year the expenses were about 18/6 per case, but for this season there would be a very substantial reduction. Freight had been reduced from 7/6 to 5/-; cases would cost about 1/6, as compared with 2/4

Mr. Mussen: No. Proceeding, he said it was not intended to confine export to Great Britain. There was a promising market in Canada. In regard to shipments to the East, the Association had a proposition from such a firm which was prepared to trade on an f.o.b. basis.

American Market.

The Secretary read extracts from the report of the Australian Trade Commissioner in Canada.

Generally speaking, the prospects of profitably marketing Australian citrus fruits in U.S.A. were not considered bright, but in Canada the market was considered worth a trial.

Mr. Parkes said South Australia would join heartily in trial shipments to Canada. He was not keen in shipments to U.S.A., but would not stand out if one were sent.

London Market.

Messrs. Goodland and Underwood said they thought Mildura and Curliwa Districts could provide the first quota.

It was suggested that Mildura District supply 3,000 cases and Curliwa 1,000 cases for the Esperance Bay, leaving Melbourne on June 13th.

Mr. Goodland asked the Executive to go into the question of an Equalisation Fund. If growers knew that they would get a guaranteed price throughout the season, they would not hesitate about exporting.

Mr. Cock said he was very pleased to know that there was a good prospect of Mildura and Curliwa making the first shipment. He would arrange with Mr. Krone to attend and instruct growers regarding packing. Proper grading machines were essential.

Insurance.

It was decided on the motion of Messrs. Mussen and Underwood:—

"That in respect to exports for 1923, the Executive be requested not to effect insurance against deterioration but to cover the shipments F.P.A. and against 24 hours breakdown of refrigeration machinery, and at the same time to establish an Insurance Fund, of our own by a charge not exceeding 9d. per case on the fruit shipped, the basis of payment of claims to be settled by the Executive."

Finance.

Mr. Mussen said that it was intended as soon as the account sales were out of the way to have a balance-sheet made out and audited, and a copy sent to all Districts.

Formation of Company.

Mr. Mussen moved—"That a Company entitled, 'The Victorian Central Citrus Association Proprietary Limited' be formed."

He said that only District Associations would be eligible to become members. Where a District Association was not registered it would appoint a nominee to hold the shares, and this nominee would sign a declaration of trust. This document would ensure that the nominee could not sell or transfer the share without the consent of the Directors of the Association. The Executive thought that a capital of £550 in £1 shares would be ample, although the nominal capital would be £5,000. The great Californian Fruit Exchange started business on something less than £300. Districts would be asked to subscribe the capital, but only half would be called up, thus:—

	Nominal Called		
	Shares.	Value.	Up.
Mildura . . .	100	£100	£50
Merbein . . .	100	100	50
Irymple . . .	100	100	50
Nyah	100	100	50
Tresco . . .	100	100	50
Shepparton .	100	100	50
Cobram . . .	100	100	50
Curliwa . . .	75	75	37/10
Bamawm . . .	75	75	37/10
Riverside . .	50	50	25

Kyabram . . .	50	50	25
Perricoota . .	50	50	25
Swan Hill . .	25	25	12/10
Madowla . . .	25	25	12/10
Mead	25	25	12/10
Echuca	25	25	12/10
	1100	£1,100	£550

Mr. Branson seconded the motion, which was carried.

Messrs. Mussen, Brentnall and Goodland were unanimously elected Directors.

Levy.

Mr. Mussen moved—"That the V.C.C.A. levy for the coming season should be 2d. per case."

He said that the quantity of fruit likely to come forward was much less than last year, and expenses were very heavy. In N.S.W. they were paying a 2d. levy to the central organisation, and in South Australia the fee was much higher. It could be said with truth that the Association had more than justified its existence. In the reduction of the selling agents' commission, growers were saved about 3d. per case. Wiss (Kyle) clippers could be got from the Association for 4/6 per pair, or 3/- less than quoted in retailers' catalogues, and Tuttle clippers at 8/6 per pair, as against the retail price of about 12/-. The Simper patent case could be got through the Association for 1/1¼, whereas outsiders had to pay 1/2½. Picking gloves could be purchased from the V.C.C.A. at a fraction over manufacturers' cost. Other savings were in contemplation. A number of agencies could be arranged for Districts if they wanted them. It would be seen, therefore, that the V.C.C.A. had saved the growers more than it had cost, and in addition it had stabilised the market.

Captain Halhed seconded the motion, which was carried.

Basis of Levy.

Resolutions were adopted:—

"That the levy be based on each bushel container with half rate for half bushel cases."

"That the levy be on all fruit excepting Lemons, and be in force all the year round."

"That the levy be per bushel on production."

Experimental Plots.

Mr. Cock urged the importance of the scheme providing for experimental plots in the districts. He strongly advised growers to go in for fumigation for scale. A plant for the whole State would cost £1,000. If the various District Citrus Associations would make some financial proposition to enable this work to be carried out, he was sure the Government would help them.

Lemon Position.

Mr. Cock, replying to questions, said that large quantities of Lemons were being produced close to Melbourne, and commanded the market. He did not think that Lemons produced under irri-

gation were as good as Lemons produced under natural conditions. The Lemon grower in the north was therefore seriously handicapped. He strongly advised Lemon growers in the north to reduce the area of Lemons by budding over with other citrus, chiefly Washington Navels, and to go in for curing the remainder of the Lemon crop.

Seepage.

Mr. Brentnall moved—

"That in view of the immediate danger to the interests of the Citrus Industry the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission be urged to proceed immediately with the work necessary to control seepage and provide effective drainage in the Districts affected."

Captain Halhed seconded the motion. He said that the trouble was very pronounced, particularly at Redcliffs, where, unless concrete was put in, thousands of trees would die. It was no good the Water Supply Commission saying it had no money. Thousands of pounds had already been invested, and this would be lost unless this essential work was taken in hand.

The motion was carried.

A hearty vote of thanks was carried to the Railway Dept., and to the Executive.

AMERICAN VISITORS.

Too much "Government" in Australia.

We were interested to receive a call from two nurserymen from the United States of America, Messrs. E. N. Reasoner, of Oneco, Florida; and Mr. Guy A. Bryant, of Princeton, Illinois, U.S.A. These gentlemen are visiting New Zealand and as many of the Australian States as time permits. Appreciation was expressed by the visitors of the splendid botanic gardens in the places visited.

Mr. Reasoner states that the Grapefruit is popular in America. In addition to selling the fruit in a fresh condition, it is now being canned in vast quantities. The production of the Grapefruit is especially profitable in Florida, where the climate and soil conditions suit it admirably. The variety, Marsh's seedless, which is reckoned as one of the best in Australia, has long since been superseded by better varieties in Florida, the two most popular varieties there being Walters and Duncan. Foster is a new pink-fleshed sport from Walters, while Mr. Reasoner is now testing a new pink-fleshed variety from Marsh's seedless. These pink-fleshed varieties are stated to be better than the parent type. The climate in Queensland is very similar to that of Florida. Mr. Reasoner believes that more attention should be devoted in that State to the commercial growing of the Avocado Pear.

With regard to the introduction of new varieties into Australia, our visitors are firmly of the opinion that Australia should not continue the embargo against importation but should arrange for adequate quarantine stations through which such new varieties could be im-

(Continued on page 226)

New South Wales

Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area.

(By Our Correspondent.)

Griffith (20/5/23).

Mr. Wilson Moses, managing director of the Griffith Producers' Co-operative Co. Ltd., has returned from New Zealand, after an extended tour of the Dominion, during which he spent some time investigating certain questions affecting the fruitgrowers of Australia. One point which seriously concerns the growers of deciduous dried fruits is the duty of 2d. per lb. on all dried fruit products from Australia, whilst the South African Government have been able to arrange for dried fruits from South Africa to enter New Zealand free of duty. Apparently, the question of Australian dried fruits was completely overlooked by the Australian politicians, which is another indication of the folly of leaving the marketing of industries vital to the welfare of the Commonwealth in political hands.

Oranges.—The citrus growers of Griffith will be well forward with the harvesting of their citrus crop by the beginning of June. Both the Griffith and Leeton growers are enthusiastic supporters of the new N.S.W. Citrus Association, which has been formed to regulate the marketing of citrus in New South Wales and to act in conjunction with similar organizations in the other States.

Federal Fruit Pool.—Considerable dissatisfaction is felt by the deciduous canning fruitgrowers on the M.I.A. on account of the withholding of payments on fruit supplied to the pool during the last canning season. At the time of writing nothing has been received by the growers for Peaches delivered during February and March, nor has the pool yet paid for Apricots delivered in December last, although growers in other States have been paid in full. The situation seemed to warrant the visit of a special representative from the areas, to endeavour to arrange some finality with the pool. Representations were also made to members of Parliament, but notwithstanding these efforts no settlement has yet been made.

Rains.—Heavy rains have fallen over the M.I.A. during the past month. These will ensure the safety of the fodder and cover crops, which were in some danger from the prolonged drought—no rain having previously fallen since December last.

The M.I.A. Co-operative Co. Ltd.—After protracted negotiations between the N.S.W. Government and the Leeton Growers' Co-operative Company, a re-organization of the finances has resulted in the Company being placed in a sounder financial position. Owing to heavy losses in previous years, the Company found itself embarrassed, mainly due to heavy interest charges accruing on its debt to the N.S.W. Government. So serious was the position that it appeared likely that the Company had

no alternative but to liquidate, but, under the new arrangement, the State is relieving the Company of the necessity of carrying a large proportion of the interest charge for a period of five years, thus enabling progress to be made in the development of its organization. This assistance is, however, coupled with the stipulation that the shareholders shall pay up the balance of their uncalled capital.

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3, 4 & 5 The Arcade, Borough Market, London, S.E. 1. Tel. Hop 3373. Telegrams, "Borocost, London."
G.N.R. Potato Market, King's Cross, N.1. Telegrams, "Kincrocost, London."
3-5 Pudding Lane, Monument, London, E.C. 3. Tel. Avenue 7990. Telegrams, "Fruits, London."
18 Stanley Street, Liverpool, L. Tel. Central 888. Telegrams, "Geracost, Liverpool."
Southampton Docks (Facing No. 45 shed), Tel. Southampton 2207. Telegrams, "Geracost, Southampton."
American Branch, 202-4 Franklin Street, New York. Cables, "Geracost, New York."

The providing of the necessary funds in actual cash would cause considerable hardship to the Leeton growers, consequently it has been arranged that a levy of 10/- per ton upon all green fruits passing through the Company's hands, shall be made. Past experience has shown that a levy of this kind is regarded by the growers with less distaste than the actual payment of cash.

It is hoped that as the situation has now been relieved, the Company will progress, and be shortly in a position to fill the very great need of such services as it can render.

Willie, dear," said young Mrs. Tickle, "I have good news."

"What is it?"

"The bank sent me word that my account is overdrawn. I looked into the matter, and find that 'overdrawn' is the same as 'exaggerated'."

FUMIGATION BY HYDRO-CYANIC GAS ON THE MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION AREAS.

Interesting and Valuable Experiments.

It is interesting to read that the South African citrus growers are congratulating themselves upon the "discovery" of a fumigation process which has been in use in America for very many years, and which is now being superseded by a method which develops the gas from a powder instead of a liquid.

Outside of America, it is believed that the M.I.A. is the first citrus district to obtain practical evidence of the efficiency of the new method.

The first fumigations of citrus were performed by the "pot method," in which sulphuric acid and potassium cyanide were used under the tents. This method was always extraordinarily destructive to the tents, and dangerous to the operators, from the action of the sulphuric acid.

Later, the vital principle of this combination was discovered, the hydro-cyanic gas, and this gas, isolated and liquified, was used by citrus growers in America very largely, and it is this which the South African growers are now using.

Professor Quayle, of Riverside University, California, now visiting and demonstrating on the M.I.A., was the first to perceive the possibilities of calcium cyanide, which is a fine powder, upon which moisture acts in the same manner as it acts upon calcium carbide, but produces hydro-cyanic gas, instead of acetylene. This powder is produced in an electrical furnace by the manufacturers of calcium carbide, and is a patented process, involving the use of nitrogen.

In the fumigation of citrus scale the powder is sprayed by high pressure under the tent, the moisture upon the branches and leaves acting upon the finely-divided particles to produce the poisonous gas, which has a distinctive almond odour. The operation is carried on at night, the period per tree being approximately 40 minutes. The tents will last for years with careful handling, as the gas has

no deleterious effect upon fabric, and this is an important item since the first cost and maintenance of the tents is the major portion of the expenditure in most other methods.

The tents recommended are practically lengths of heavy calico or twill joined together, and rounded at the corners. These sheets are lifted easily from tree to tree by means of two long poles. The advantage of these over the old-fashioned bell-shaped fumigation tents is obvious, as these flat sheets almost "sail" into the air when the air excluding earth has been removed from round the bases; whereas the bell tents have to be pulled off, frequently with damage to the trees.

It is estimated that the cost of fumigation per tree by this method should



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not be more than 1/6 to the orchardist. The powder itself is neither expensive nor extravagant in use, the maximum dose being 9 ozs. only. A gang of five men can operate 40 tents continuously, so that in two hours more than an acre of citrus may be covered.

Prof. Quayle brought only a limited quantity of material from America, and this has already been used. Large shipments are on order, however, and a Leeton resident is preparing to take contracts for fumigation by this method.

The result of Professor Quayle's own demonstrations upon an orchard in Leeton, badly infested with scale, show a 100 per cent. kill.

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Shipping Number 418

An old lady in a bus noticed that a man sitting in front of her had his arm in a sling. She was a very inquisitive old person, and couldn't refrain from leaning forward and asking: "My poor man, what have you done to your arm?"

"Broken it, ma'am," the man replied. "And how did you break it?" continued the old lady.

"When I was patting myself on the back, ma'am," he said.

"Patting yourself on the back! What ever were you doing that for?"

He looked hard at her for a moment, and then said:

"For minding my own business, ma'am!"

Western Australia.

State Advisory Board.

A meeting of the W.A. Fruit Advisory Board was held at Perth on April 18. There were present:—Messrs. O. Sparks (chairman), A. Booth, J. Ramage, G. Sharp, and J. N. Cox (representing fresh fruits), F. J. Becher (citrus fruits), J. Thomas (dried fruits), A. H. Dickson (Fruit Shippers' Committee), G. W. Wickens (Dept. Agriculture), A. Keene (Fruit & Produce Auctioneers' Association).

Bond £200.—Members of the Board agreed to execute a bond to return the advance of £200 from the first moneys received by the Board.

Branding and Numbering of Consignments.—Decided to reply to the Director of Agriculture stating that branding by numbers on cases was not desired to Western Australian growers.

Fruit Inspection Fees.—Decided to reply to the National Council, stating that as inspection should be very strict and as inspecting fees were correspondingly high, no reduction was sought in W.A.

Returned Soldier Fruitgrowers.—Messrs. Harber, Skewes and Prendergast, delegates from the recent Conference of Returned Soldier Settlers, urged that the Advisory Board be incorporated under an Act of Parliament, so as to borrow money to build and control the central markets. In discussion, it was admitted that this amounted to a compulsory pool, and that in the past growers had not been over loyal to their associations. The chairman promised that the representations would receive careful consideration.

Central Markets.—It was decided to request the Government to call a conference of all interests concerned, municipalities, railway department, fruit-growers, distributors, &c., to discuss the matter of establishing central markets.

Pre-cooling Oranges.—As pre-cooling involved two extra handlings and 1/- additional cost, it was unanimously resolved that the Board reiterates its opinion that pre-cooling in May and June was not only unnecessary, but detrimental to the fruit, and ask the Federal Council to take steps to see that this is not insisted upon in future.

Dried Fruits.—Mr. Thomas said dried fruits industry was in a very bad way; compulsory organization, through a tax of 1/- per acre, should be imposed; all growers of dried fruits to export their proportion and all fruit to go through some central channel, same being rigidly inspected before shipment. He stated that outside growers waited until the A.D.F.A. prices were fixed, and then sold on the local market at 1d. per lb. cheaper. With no overhead charges for organization, they secured the local trade, the organized growers having to export their products overseas and take the world's price. The newer settlers on the Upper Swan were hard up against it financially, but unfortunately a great number were outside the A.D.F.A.

Mr. Ramage said the outside men had formed another organization known as

the Westralia Dried Fruitgrowers' Association.

Mr. Thomas stated that these were members of the Swan Settlers' Association, affiliated with the A.D.F.A., who broke away after the decision to build and equip a large grading and packing shed at Herne Hill.

Mr. Dickson said that if the A.D.F.A. were to drop out the industry would get into an even worse position.

The chairman mentioned the Canadian shipments some years ago, and the prospect of a reciprocal tariff arrangement being made, and of the prospect of re-opening the market in Canada.

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Mr. Cox considered that as the Governments, both State and Federal, were responsible by settling returned soldiers on the land, for disturbing the local markets, they should subsidise the existing channels to try and open up fresh markets for fruit, both dried and fresh, to help to overcome the glut in the local markets, owing to the over-production through settling so many men on the land since the war. It was unanimously resolved:—That, as certain industries are over-producing, the State Governments in conjunction with the Federal Government, be asked to render assistance in exploiting new markets before encouraging fresh planting.

Fruit Fly.—It was reported that fruit fly was as bad, or worse, in W.A. than it had ever been, and it was resolved to advise the Minister of Agriculture: "That the fruit Advisory Board views with great concern the spread of the fruit fly in this State."

WOOD-WOOL—AUSTRALIAN MADE

We are requested to direct attention to the fact that Wood-wool is now being locally manufactured near Doncaster (Vic.), the sole distributors being

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Reference: Satisfied growers in all
states.

Lawford's Fruit Exchange, Doncaster (Vic.). After experiments extending over three years, an excellent commercial article has now been placed on the market, and users have expressed appreciation. From the nature of its texture it is eminently suitable for fruit packing, in fact a considerable quantity has been used in packing Pears for the present export season. The manufacturers point out that in addition to its high quality, it is less than half the cost of the imported article. Enquiries are welcome and any information will be supplied by the distributors above-named.

Pineapple Production

Interesting Details from Hawaii.

Huge Increase in Plantings.

Advices received from Honolulu sum up the canned Pineapple situation in the islands as follows (states the Brisbane "Mail"):

Hawaii's gross income from Pineapples of the 1922 pack will be about £4,500,000 or almost half of the estimated value of the 1922 sugar out-turn, which is £10,400,000.

Expert estimates place the total area in Pineapples in Hawaii at the present time at about 36,000 acres. This computation is based upon an average production of six tons of fresh fruit to the acre, and includes lands that are allowed to lie fallow.

Packing companies have been unable to meet the demand for Hawaiian Pineapples, and for this reason large increases in acreage are in prospect that will in all probability increase local Pineapple production at least 50 per cent. within the next five years, aside from other influences. Principal among the latter is the recently discovered

paper mulching process,

which is now being used and leased to other growers by the Hawaiian Pineapple Co., which has purchased the exclusive rights to the process from Mr. C. F. Eckhart, the inventor.

Extensive experiments with mulching paper, as applied to Pineapple cultivation, have led to the conclusion that this one factor alone will increase the out-turn of land on which it is used between 25 and 50 per cent. The mulching paper, which is manufactured locally, is spread over the rows of newly planted Pineapple "suckers." As the Pineapple plants grow they burst through the paper, while the weeds, not being sufficiently strong to break thorough, perish. Thus the Pineapple plants are materially strengthened and produce large and better fruit, and at the same time the necessity for weeding is practically eliminated.

A recent deal between the Hawaiian Pineapple Company and the Waialua Agricultural Company will result in between 3,000 and 4,000 additional acres being devoted to Pineapples, and the planting of other areas is now being planned. In view of these facts, it would seem reasonable to conclude that the Pineapple production in Hawaii may be practically doubled within the next few years.

Predictions that Pineapples will eventually supplant sugar as the leading industry in these islands, seem to be approaching fulfilment.

The Hawaiian Pineapple Company announced it has exercised its option to purchase the Island of Lanai from Messrs. Harry A. and Frank F. Baldwin for £225,000. The Island is about 150 square miles in area, of which less than 10,000 acres will be owned by others. This is probably the largest single real estate transaction in the history of the territory.

The Company, which is the largest

packer of Pineapples in the world, has as yet formulated no definite plans with regard to the development of the Island of Lanai, but one of the first moves will be to build a suitable harbour at a location to be determined later. This, and other improvements, will probably run to £50,000, according to rough present estimates.

The Port of Manchester.

We have been requested to direct attention to the facilities offered at Manchester for handling Australian Oranges and other fruits. The port has a popu-

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Geelong, Victoria**

lation of 13,000,000 within 75 miles of its docks. Information regarding steamship service, port and fruit brokers' charges, will be gladly supplied by the Australian agent, Captain W. J. Wade, M.B.E., 8 Bridge Street, Sydney, New South Wales.

Grading Oranges.—The Mildura Co-operative Fruit Company recently installed three Ellis graders in their main packing sheds. The general manager (Mr. A. S. Hopkins) in a recent appreciative letter, states that the machines were in daily use last season. The grading and packing was considerably cheapened and simplified; their only regret was that they did not hear of the Ellis grader years ago.

The Bandoeng Fair

Advertising Australian Products in Java.

Fruit Industry should be Represented.

In order to push Australian goods in Java and the East generally, special provision is being made to have a prominent Australian display at the Bandoeng fair, Java, during July and August.

The enterprise is purely of a commercial nature, and is intended to afford

Government, as plans have already been prepared for the erection of buildings in which to house all Government departments.

The Bandoeng International Industrial Fair was first held in 1920, and has been held annually ever since. It is increasing in popularity from year to year.

The "Australian Court" is situated at the side of the main building, in a commanding position. The length of the pavilion is 85 feet x 33; and has an annexe measuring 40 ft. x 33 ft., thus giving an area of 4,125 square feet.

The Commonwealth Government is subsidising exhibitors to the extent of 50 per cent. of the cost of space.

Personal Supervision.—The "Australian Court" will be under the personal supervision of Mr. Nigel Brock (of Messrs. Brock & Koekkoek, the official representatives of the Bandoeng Fair in Australia), whose knowledge of the East extends over many years. Applications for space in the "Australian Court" should be made immediately, as the exhibition opens on July 28th-August 12th, 1923. This personal supervision will ensure the proper safeguarding of each exhibitor's interests throughout the entire exhibition, careful unpacking and arranging of displays to the best advantage, answering enquiries, judiciously distributing price-lists, catalogues, and other advertising literature, as well as the carrying-out in a business-like manner, any special instructions from the exhibitors, who may desire agents appointed to handle their lines.

In a recent letter to the "Fruit World," Mr. Brock states:—

"During my travels in Java and surrounding territory, I hope to get some data which will be useful for your readers. The question of the best method of distribution of fresh fruits in the tropics is a big one; but if tackled at the Australian end with a determination to organize the business on a sound basis by intelligent co-operation, much should be accomplished.

"At the outset it must be made perfectly clear that the task is a big one and no half-measures will succeed. It is difficult to see trade in fresh fruits developing until such time as proper cold storage is established at the Eastern end. This involves a lot of money, but the fact remains that it is useless to have cold storage for the fruit in Australia and during the voyage only. The 'arctic circle' must be complete.

"Personally, I have no doubt that, with such an important industry as fruitgrowing, languishing for the need of markets in the East, the Commonwealth Government would give sympathetic consideration to aid financially any practical business-like enterprise which contains the elements of success.

"We are glad to say that Mr. Sumner has had prepared an attractive exhibit of dried fruits on behalf of the A.D.F.A., which should greatly benefit this branch of the industry at the Bandoeng Fair.

"While on the fruitgrowing industry

I would like to make mention of a great worker in that very important field. I refer to W. H. Everard, M.L.A., who represents Evelyn, which electorate embraces the principal fruitgrowing districts near Melbourne. No one appreciates the necessity for finding markets for our fruit—either fresh, canned, or dried—than Mr. Everard. He is always urging the Government to assist the grower at the business-end of the stick—that is, the selling end. He is a great believer in the possibilities of "dehydration," which is revolutionizing the fruitgrowing industry. He has a reputation for possessing "bull-dog"

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producers and Australian manufacturers an opportunity of demonstrating to the merchants of the Dutch East Indies that Australia (incidentally their nearest neighbours) is quite capable of supplying their requirements in open competition with the world's markets.

Bandoeng is the third largest city in Java, and is situated about 100 miles from Batavia, and is within one day's journey of any part of Java. It is the most modern of all towns in the Dutch East Indies, and expanding with vast rapidity. Many Government offices have already been located there, and it is thought that the time is not very far distant when it will be the seat of

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propensities, and I hope he will 'hold on' long enough to see the good results of his labours."

A farewell luncheon was tendered to Mr. Nigel Brock, prior to his departure to take charge of the Australian Court at the Bandoeng Fair, Java. Mr. W. H. Everard presided. Complimentary speeches were made by Col. Merrett (President of the Royal Agricultural Society), Mr. G. H. Kneen (Manager Commonwealth Government Shipping Line), Mr. Wilson (Gippsland & Northern Co-op. Co.), and the Dutch Consul.

Mr. Brock was assured of the best wishes of all present, and of the Australian people generally, in regard to the looked-for success of this important exhibition.

Shipment of Plums and Pears to England.

Successful Experiments with South Australian Fruit.

A FURTHER experiment in the shipment of soft fruits was made by the Government Produce Department, on behalf of South Australian Orchardists in the s.s. "Esperance Bay," which sailed on the 10th. February, for London.

Although the trial shipment made in the s.s. "Moreton Bay," on the 7th. February, of last year, showed that some varieties of our Plums could be landed in England in a satisfactory condition, it was not possible to obtain sufficient Plums to fill a steamer's cool chamber this year (The smallest chambers requiring 2/3000 crates to fill). The Produce Department, therefore, had to confine the shipment to 171 cases, and place it in an experimental chamber on the "Bay" liner.

This second trial has again demonstrated that certain varieties of Plums can be safely shipped, and that a very attractive market awaits all sound, well graded Plums in England.

The English fruit markets generally have been very depressed, but the growers are very pleased to learn that the Plums were sold at an average of approximately £1/5/- per crate (approximately one-third bushel) for sound Plums, and up to 50/- was realised for a picked line.

Amongst the varieties successfully

marketed the following are predominant; Golden Drop, President, Kelsey, Shipper, Jefferson, Greengage, and Grand Duke. Other varieties have also shown a good return.

Several methods of packing have been tried, and the Trade Commissioner for South Australia (who handled the experimental consignments in London) has recommended that the following methods should be adopted:—

1.—All fruit should be packed in trays (the three tray crate and half-bushel cases should be discarded).

2.—Every fruit irrespective of size should be wrapped in sulphite tissue paper. Care being taken that the papers used are just the right size for the purpose.

3.—A thin layer of Wood-wool should be placed on the bottom of the tray then a sheet of tissue. The fruit should then be packed and covered with a sheet of tissue and Wood-wool.

4.—The tray should not be filled too full as the tender nature of the fruit will not permit of much pressure when putting the lids on. The pack should, however, be reasonably firm.

5.—The number of fruit contained in each tray, should be marked on the tray.

6.—It is most important that only the choicest fruit be packed, and that all the Plums in a tray should be even in size and other characteristics. One or two slightly blemished fruits will spoil the whole tray.

7.—Undersized Plums of any variety

should not be shipped. The larger the better.

The South Australian Trade Commissioner points out that the Plums are sold as a "fancy" line at "fancy" prices, and if we are to be successful the above points must be observed.

The trial shipments were made at a temperature of 33 degrees with as little variation as possible, and there does not seem any reason to alter this.

The South Africans are our competitors in this business and are putting their fruit up in excellent style.

The "Esperance Bay" shipment included some Williams (Duchess) and Howell Pears. The former were landed in a worthless condition, but the Howells were good and sold well.

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Vessels Sail from Port Melbourne as under :—

T.S.S. "ESPERANCE BAY"	13,850 tons	R. MacKenzie	13th June 1923
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" " "JERVIS BAY"	13,850 "	W. R. Chaplin	8th August 1923
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Co. Ltd., 28 O'Connell Street, Sydney; The North
Shore Gas Co. Ltd., 193 Alfred Street, North
Sydney.

Victoria and Tasmania: The Metropolitan Gas Co.,
196 Flinders Street, Melbourne; The Broken Hill
Prop. Co. Ltd., 320 Collins Street, Melbourne.

South Australia and Western Australia: South
Australian Gas Co., Waymouth Street, Adelaide.

American Visitors' Views.*(Continued from page 218)*

ported. Quarantine stations for plants are established in many centres in U.S.A.

With regard to citrus canker, Mr. Reasoner states positively that this disease has been completely wiped out of Florida, the State having been absolutely free from same for the past two years.

The question asking for their general impressions was greeted with a smile. "I do not know that we are in a position to express our opinions," said Mr. Reasoner, "but I rather think—you won't mind my saying it—that there is too much 'Government' here. What with Government railways, Government telephones, Government bakeries, Government sawmills, Government fish shops, etc.—we in the United States believe more in co-operation and private enterprise."

Mr. Reasoner believes that oil will be struck in Australia. Messrs. Reasoner and Bryant visited various nurseries and horticultural shows, and were pleased to make the acquaintance of many Australian and New Zealand horticulturists.

NEW COMPANY.

The Victorian Central Citrus Association Pty. Ltd., was registered on May 10. Authorized capital, £5,000, in £1 shares. Subscribers for one share each: Treco Fruitgrowers' Co-operative Association Ltd., Mildura District Citrus Co-operative Association Ltd. Directors: Stanley Brentnall, Kenny Arnott Goodland, Gerald Mussen. Principal objects: To take over the whole or any

part of the undertaking, and real and personal property belonging to and to undertake all or any of the liabilities of an unincorporated association, known as the Victorian Central Citrus Association, whose principal office is at 360 Collins-street, Melbourne.

MARKETING CITRUS FRUITS.

Clash between Citrus Associations and Melbourne Agents.

Information is to hand (as we go to press) from the Victorian Central Citrus Association stating, that owing to the determination of the agents to charge 10 per cent. commission, it has been decided by the Executive to open their own floor and sell by auction. Mr. B. S. B. Cook states that the agents are afraid of the growing power of the V.C.C.A., and are seeking its destruction.

Interviewed on the subject, Mr. H. M. Wade, President of the Wholesale Fruit Merchants Association of Victoria, and leading agents state that they welcome the activities of the V.C.C.A. in regard to export, but that local marketing matters can be most effectively and economically dealt with by the men with long experience of the trade.

Though it was realised last season, that $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. commission was inadequate, the agreement was kept but it is impossible to renew; that the 10 per cent. commission (which is charged for other fruits) is fair and reasonable.

NEW FRUIT CASE.

Orchardists, particularly exporters, will be interested in the Cutler Fruit Case, introduced by Mr. H. A. Cutler, chief engineer of the "Northumberland," which is shortly to be placed on the Australian market.

The case has been designed to provide an equal distribution of cold air throughout the ship's hold by means of air trunks formed by over four cases. The corner of the ends of each case are cut away or notched, thus forming an horizontal air trunk throughout the stacks of cases. Vertical trunks are also provided, to allow the initial heat to rise, by means of distance battens on both sides and bottoms of each case. It will be noted that air ducts will thus be provided both horizontally and vertically throughout the cases.

It is also claimed by the inventor that in a ship's hold 94 x 40 x 20 ft., 167 more Cutler cases can be accommodated than the present cases, on account of the saving in dunnage.

It is estimated that this case will cost about $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. more than the present bushel case, but it is pointed out that better service will be given and the saving of dunnage would be an important factor in securing a reduction in freight. Further particulars are obtainable from Mr. F. J. White, 406 Collins-street, Melbourne.

The Farmers and Settlers' Co-operative Insurance Company of Australia Ltd.

Capital : £100,000. Subscribed Capital : £70,000
Paid Up : £35,000

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Australasian Fruit in London.

Messrs. F. W. Moore & Co. Ltd., Australasian merchants, London, write under date April 19th:—

Eight steamers arrived within the first fortnight of the 1923 season; fruit was discharged at three ports—London, Liverpool and Hull—which is unusual in the earliest days. Up to the time these lines are being written, not any of the fruit landed has been of really good quality; it was all immature, lacked color, therefore unattractive, and "Bitter Pit" excessively prevalent, especially in the Ribstone and Cox's Orange Pippins, to a lesser extent in Cleopatras, Dunn's, and Alfristons. Sea carriage has on the whole been good, some complaints have been heard about the N.Z. cargo ex "Remuera," but we have not seen anything very bad.

There was general disappointment when so much of the fruit was found to be so green and immature, and the universal comment was that it is a mistake to ship so early; the dessert Apples with some exceptions compared disadvantageously with the best Oregon (U.S.A.) Newtown Pippins, whilst Nova Scotian and other Canadian shipments of culinary sorts, although old, were nearly equal to similar kinds from the Commonwealth. The prices ruling for American (U.S.A. and Canadian) fruit when the Australian began to arrive, were generally as follows:—Oregon (boxes), Newtowns, 8/6 to 14/3; Winesaps, 8/6 to 11/3; Delicious, 11/- to 12/-; Ortley's (Cleos.), 12/6 to 12/9; Canadian (barrels), Golden Russets, 20/- to 32/-; Ben Davis', 15/- to 25/-; Nova Scotian Ben Davis', 11/- to 27/6; Nonpareils, 15/- to 25/6; Albermarle (Virginia, U.S.A.), 42/- per brl. The Commonwealth arrivals betoken maturity by size only, as the texture was "woody" or tough. In many instances the pips although, slightly colored, were entirely undeveloped, and there was scarcely any flavor in the best of them. Pears, ex "Persie," were sound and hard, but coming on top of well-ripened shipments from South Africa, they appeared exceedingly common, e.g., the difference between Beurre Bosc from the Cape which were a rich cinnamon

or golden-brown color, and the same variety from Tasmania without even a slight touch of bronze, was very remarkable, and it was almost impossible to convince buyers that the latter were really B.B. Opinions were freely expressed that all the fruit should have had a fortnight or at least ten days longer on the trees, as then its appearance would have turned attention from North American fruit. Instead of that, many prominent buyers were saying:

H. M. WADE & Co. FRUIT MERCHANTS

Prompt advices of sales
Cheques Weekly

435 FLINDERS LANE
MELBOURNE

Corner of William Street.
Opposite Western Market

"The Australian fruit is not coming good this year," and when once such an idea gains currency, it takes a long while to dissipate.

Well-matured, good colored Apples by the first steamers would meet with a favorable reception which is perhaps better than high prices; prices can be expected to increase as supplies from the Northern hemisphere fall away, but as previously remarked, a bad impression at the start takes a lot of killing.

There is still a considerable quantity of Apples to come from both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of North America, the total estimated in boxes is 300,000 to arrive during April. The Atlantic coast shipments are mostly in barrels roughly equivalent to three Australian cases. Prices are not good enough to attract large consignments (nearly all

the Apples coming have been bought or advanced upon), as the fruit is making more money in the States, but 300,000 cases make a considerable difference to the market for Australasian Apples, especially when the quality of the latter is not first-class. Many of the Pacific coast Apples which come via the Panama Canal are arriving unsound, the cause of which is said to be inexpert refrigerating on some lines of steamers employed in the trade.

Numbering Cases.—It is yet too early to say much about the numbering system beyond the fact that all cases bearing a consignee's number are more promptly delivered, and have to submit to less handling.

WITH OUR ADVERTISEMENTS.

Goodman's fruit tree catalogue contains many matters of importance to orchardists. Write C. J. Goodman, Bairnsdale, Vic. for copy.

Shipments of fruit may be made to London, Liverpool, Hull, Manchester, Glasgow and Manchester, through Bender & Co., 100 Elizabeth Street, Launceston, Tas.

Padlock Brand dried fruits are sent to all parts of the world. Buyers should get in touch with the Mildura Co-operative Fruit Co. Ltd., Mildura, Vic. and all States.

Vallo Sprays include nicotine sulphate for aphids pests, arsenate of lead, lime sulphur, petroleum emulsion, atomised sulphur, benzole emulsion. Descriptive booklet obtainable from A. Victor Leggo & Co., 497 Collins Street, and at Sydney and Brisbane.

Hull is the natural gateway from England for the continent. Over 13,000,000 people are reached. Export your fruit to White and Son Ltd., Hull, Eng., through their agents in all States and New Zealand.

Citrus, vine, and deciduous fruit trees are obtainable from Two Baya Nurseries Pty. Ltd., 346 Flinders Street, Melbourne. Established over 25 years, who have 200 acres under nursery stock and 300 under orchard.

Those about to grub old trees, etc., should write Trewhella Bros. Pty. Ltd., Trentham, Vic., for information about their monkey grubbers.

French Potash (sulphate and muriate), an important nutritive element in the orchard, is obtainable from Dalgety & Co. Ltd., all States.

"Hints on Pruning," published by E. E. Pescott, is a publication obtainable free on application to McPherson's Pty. Ltd., 582-3 Collins Street, Melbourne.

STONE FRUITS CITRUS TREES AND QUALITY ROSES

A GOOD START MEANS EVERYTHING

BEFORE PURCHASING send for Lasscock's Catalogue and prices. These South Australian grown trees are unsurpassed for hardiness, healthiness, and vigor. They will jump from the start and bring profit to the grower. Our stocks are excellent and prices right. Special attention is given to packing.

LASSCOCK'S NURSERIES

Henley Beach Road,
LOCKLEYS, SOUTH AUST.

poultry and Beekeeping



Poultry Notes.

Conducted by Ian P. Hamilton.

AS THE HATCHING SEASON approaches every orchardist should provide an incubator. It is essential to have one if early hatched chicks are to be reared—and chickens hatched late in the summer are not a payable proposition. The advantage of having a big number of chickens of the one age (as can be done with an incubator) also simplifies the attention that must be given to them.

For the requirements of the average orchardist who wants a breed that will combine table and egg laying qualities, the Black Orpington or Rhode Island Red should answer the purpose. Remember, however, that there are good and poor laying strains in these as well as in other breeds.

If you buy day-old chicks, remember that they need some artificial heat as nearly as possible equal to that supplied by the hen. A brooder with a small kerosene lamp should be provided for them for a time.

A flock of pure bred fowls should find a place on every holding and can be made quite a profitable side-line, especially where the grain can be grown and the feed bill thus reduced. The fresh egg is a commodity that no housewife can afford to be without.

Never feed inferior grain to poultry. It might appear cheap, but, when results are taken into consideration it is the re-

verse. To give best results, and fill the egg basket, fowls must receive the very best food that is available.

The morning mash should consist of house scraps to which are added 2 parts of pollard to one of bran. It should be mixed to a crumbly consistency. A little oil-cake (soaked over night) may be added a couple of times a week with advantage.

This is the month to select your future breeders.

It doesn't pay to keep hens over a third winter. Get rid of them and replace them with pullets.

Have a look round your pens and see that there are no leaking roofs.

It's too late after the heavy rains have come.

Keep an extra good supply of litter in the pens during the winter months. Fowls need it for exercising.

Eggs are money just now. Careful grading and packing are worth while.

A little crushed maize may be fed occasionally during the winter months.

Boiled liver or rabbit, fed twice a week with the mash will provide a necessary diet of meat.

It does not pay to have good layers mated to an inferior male bird.

See that you have some young lettuces coming on in readiness for your early hatches of chickens.

Too much grain is the cause of liver trouble. Always vary it with a mash in the mornings.

STABILISING THE EGG MARKET.

Some very important steps are being taken this season to improve the condition of the poultry industry in Australia. It is proposed to relieve the glut periods in our markets by arranging systematic regulation of the supply. Surplus eggs will be exported, cool-stored, and (if necessary and profitable) pulped. The grading and stamping of eggs, protection against the invasion of Chinese eggs, and many other matters are being dealt with through the efforts of the poultry breeders themselves in the The Egg Producers' Federation and the The National Utility Poultry Breeders' Association.

The immediate result has been that market prices for "Golden Yolk" eggs, that is those controlled by the Federation and guaranteed as "new-laid," are quoted at 3d. per dozen above other eggs on the market. Every breeder of fowls, whether in a large or small way should link up with the Victorian Egg Producers' Federation, and help those producers who are out with the sole object of placing the Industry in the place it should occupy in Australia where conditions are so favorable and the opportunities so great.

Beekeeping Notes.

E DUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS in connection with fruit and milk are becoming increasingly favoured by the producers of those commodities, but what about the virtues of honey as a food?

Honey is practically the only food that is immediately absorbed into the system and leaves no residue in its digestion; there is no exertion on the part of the stomach.

Many medical men say we eat too much sugar, and if a larger portion of our sugar diet was composed of honey the health of the community in general would be improved.

Since honey is so easy to assimilate in the stomach, and contains valuable food matter, it is a most desirable sweet for children.

The Difference Between Profit and Loss Lies in Clean Orchards

A New Era in Orchard Sprays

GUMLYPTA ORCHARD SPRAY



The combined insecticide and fumigant that can be used on your trees at any time of the year, and costing less than 8d. per gallon for effective strength. Destroys Woolly and all Aphis, Red Spider and all Scale Insects, White Louse, White and Pink Wax.

We recommend 1 part Gumlypta to forty parts water for general purposes.

GUMLYPTA ORCHARD SPRAY is Eucalyptus Oil and other insect destroying oils scientifically blended with Carbon Bi-sulphide, etc., so as to mix with water at any strength.

Prevent Fungus growth and Leaf Curl, etc.

Thousands of gallons sold throughout Yanco, Gosford, Wyong, Orange, Richmond (N.S.W.), Mildura, Castlemaine (Vic.), Stanthorpe, Mapleton (Q.), and the Huon (Tasmania).

PRICES:—7/9 per gallon in 4 gallon tins, 8/6 in 1 gallon tins, F.O.B. Sydney

Pamphlet and Testimonials on request

GILLARD GORDON (Aus.) LTD., Rozelle, N.S.W.

Honey is a food in which practically none of the organisms which produce the known serious diseases of the human system can exist. It will keep good for years, and is not subject to infection or deterioration when given ordinary care.

A good hive filled with a strong colony of Italian bees, is the best preventive against bee moths and other pests. Cleanliness is of the greatest importance and to obtain this frame hives should be used. All moths, cocoons, and larvae should be destroyed when found.

Hives should be made of timber sufficiently thick to prevent splitting or warping, and the boxes should fit to the bottom board. If the timber is cracked the moths are enabled to enter and deposit their eggs near the honey-comb.

Clear honey realizes a better price than cloudy or candied honey. Producers should therefore aim at having their honey remain clear and liquid for as long as possible. This can be accomplished by the removal of factors which hasten granulation, namely excess of moisture, pollen grains and air bubbles.

In a moist district, or in any locality late in the season, honey should not be extracted until the combs are well sealed over by the bees.

During or after extracting, all honey should be heated to 160 degrees (Fahr.). At this temperature honey becomes as thin as water, readily clears itself of air bubbles, pollen grains, and particles of wax all of which rise to the surface, while at the same time a certain percentage of water evaporates and some of the crystallizing sugar is inverted, and turned into a non-crystallizing kind.

VALUE OF GYPSUM TO THE LAND.

Interesting experiments have been conducted by the Victorian Agricultural Department, which showed that in the Western district an application of 1 cwt. of superphosphate with 1½ tons of gypsum increased the yield on unmanured land by 20.9 bushels per acre. The increase due to the application of gypsum was 11.1 bushels to the acre, as compared with an application of 1 cwt. of superphosphate only.

This was in 1921, and experiments made in 1922 confirmed this.

The following are particulars in detail:—

	Bushels per acre	
	1921	1922
No manure	6.5	9.0
Basic phosphate, 1 cwt. per acre	14.7	16.7
Superphosphate, 1 cwt. per acre	16.3	15.1
Superphosphate, 2 cwt. per acre	21.4	20.2
Superphosphate, 1 cwt., and gypsum, 1 ton 10 cwt. per acre	27.4	25.6

The extra net profit per acre due to the use of each fertilizer is set out below. Superphosphate had been charged against the value of the crop at £5/10/- per ton, and gypsum at £2/5/- per ton.

Wheat has been valued at the low figure of 4/- a bushel.

Application of superphosphate, 1 cwt., 26/6 per acre profit.

Application of superphosphate, 2 cwt., 41/5 per acre profit.

Application of superphosphate, 1 cwt., and gypsum, 1 ton 10 cwt. (assuming gypsum lasts five years), 56/2 per acre profit.

Eastern District.—A plot of land on the farm of Mr. Harry Baillieu, at Torumberry, treated with gypsum and superphosphate, gave a yield of 9.3 bushels to the acre, as against 7.4 bushels produced by land treated with superphosphate only.

Owing to drought conditions, the yields in the district were very poor, generally, but the increase of about 26 per cent. in yield, resulting from the use of gypsum, is remarkable.

Gypsum applied at the rate of 1 ton to the acre, together with 1 cwt. of superphosphate, produces greatly increased results on poor land which needs breaking up. It is suited for both dry and wet areas, and releases the potash in the soil.

An Englishman and an American were motoring in the latter's new racing car (supposed to be the fastest in the world). When they had covered several miles at a break-neck speed, the Englishman suddenly remarked:

"What a lot of cemeteries we seem to be passing!"

"Cemeteries!" exclaimed the Yankee, indignantly. "Those are milestones."

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All Leading Varieties

ALL STRONG, HARDY,
AND WELL GROWN

APPLE AND PLUM STOCKS

Write for particulars to

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STRAWBERRY PLANTS.
Most Sorts, £1 per 1,000.
PASSION FRUIT PLANTS.
Strong, from open beds.

6/- per 100.
50/- per 1,000.
LOGANBERRIES.
4/- per dozen.

20/- per 100.
£7/10/- per 1,000.

BLACK LOGANBERRIES.
5/- per doz., etc.

Above Prices, free on rail.

FREDRICK T. LUSTY, Junr.

"Palmgrove Nursery,"
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We can quote Plants and Seeds of all kinds. Prices Moderate.

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The Widest Fruit Drying Experience
in the World is Behind These Plants

A Few Installations

Purchaser	Principal Fruits
Merbein Dehydration Trust, Mildura	Sultanas
Tasmanian Dehydration Pty. Ltd., Bridgewater	Apricots Prunes Apples
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—ALSO— COMPLETE LEMON PROCESSING PLANTS

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APPLE SLICING MACHINES (Hand or Power)

Belting, Pulleys, Shafting
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Boilers, Cranes & Hoists,
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Trucks, Conveyors, Fruit
Trays etc.

D. J. Latham
157 Queen Street,
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AUSTRALIA

SUBSCRIBERS' PAYMENTS RECEIVED.

The following are the subscriptions received from April 20th to May 20th, 1923. The month quoted in parenthesis indicates to what date the subscription is paid. These are exclusive of the subscribers who have paid to local agents or to our offices in the various States:—

M. H. A'Beckett (Dec., '23), J. Aggett (Dec., '23), Aust. Co-op. Fertilisers Ltd. (Feb., '24), F. J. Bailey (Mar., '24), W. R. A. Bastow (April, '24), T. J. Baxter (Feb., '24), H. Birmingham (Mar., '24), A. H. Blundell (Oct., '23), J. Boon & Son (Mar., '24), H. G. Brickhill (Mar., '24), Norman M. Brooke (Jan., '24), Edward E. Bryant (Jan., '24), T. Chapman (Mar., '24), P. G. Chipperfield (April, '24), The "Sun" (Mar., '24), E. J. H. Coombe (April, '24), J. M. Cowley (Feb., '24), R. H. Crossman (April, '24), Hon. A. A. Davey, M.L.C. (April, '24), G. Douglas (June, '23), H. T. Douglas (June, '23), A. E. Eagle (June, '23), Eb. Eagle (June, '23), Ted Eagle (June, '23), Jas. H. Ely (June, '23), W. P. Ely (June, '23), F. Ellwood (Feb., '24), J. Fithie (Mar., '24), R. Field (Mar., '24), A. Frankling (June, '23), J. Gartside (June, '23), R. Glen (June, '23), W. D. Gillilan

(Mar., '24), A. W. Goodhew (May, '24), H. F. Greenwood (Mar., '24), Griffiths and Co. Ltd. (April, '24), W. J. Hardidge (May, '23), O. E. Halliday (Feb., '25), Harcourt Fruitgrowers' Progress Ass. Ltd. (June, '23), G. Harris (April, '24), W. G. Hawke (Dec., '23), Geo. Healey (Mar., '24), M. J. Herbert (Mar., '24), H. Hetherington (April, '24), V. O. Hottenstein (Sept., '23), P. Jacob (Feb., '24), W. G. Jennings (Mar., '24), Lt.-Col. W. E. James (June, '23), L. H. Jeffery (April, '24), Johnson Bros. (May, '24), A. R. Lawrence (April, '24), J. Lang (June, '23), H. Levings (April, '24), E. Livermore & Sons (April, '24), H. T. Loveday (Feb., '24), Alex. Malcolm (April, '24), E. Morgan (Dec., '23), H. Morwick (April, '24), F. A. Nicholson (Sept., '24), C. A. Nobelius Orchard (April, '24), Ald. Nott (Feb., '24), David Park (April, '24), G. E. Page (April, '23), E. H. Pearce (Mar., '24), E. F. Peters & Sons Pty. Ltd. (April, '24), L. Pietsch (Nov., '23), R. Portwine (June, '23), E. Pritchard (June, '23), Phillip Pullar (Mar., '24), J. Pump (April, '23), J. J. Rainbow (Mar., '24), E. L. Rees & Co. (May, '24), Don. du Rieu (April, '24), J. Rossini (April, '24), E. A. Sampson (Mar., '24), Sidney H. Scott (Mar., '24), C. H. Seelenmeyer (June, '23), Sheehan

Bros. (July, '23), Chas. Smith (Aug., '23), J. G. Smith (Jan., '27), N. Spencer (April, '24), E. F. Spreckly (Mar., '24), Owen Sparkes (April, '24), John Stevens (Feb., '24), Alfred E. Stephen (April, '24), A. E. Stanford (April, '24), Harold Symes, Junr. (June, '23), Alan S. Thomson (Mar., '24), K. W. Trott (April, '25), H. Vick (June, '23), A. G. Wallace & Co. (April, '24), R. E. Warren (June, '23), R. G. Wells (May, '24), Arnold White (Mar., '24), W. D. Wilson (Dec., '23), E. H. Williams (Feb., '24), W. Williams (June, '23), H. J. Willoughby (Feb., '25), Young Bros. (Oct., '23), F. Young (April, '23).

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PLOUGH, HEAVY TYPE, in
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WOOD-WOOL FIRST QUALITY AND AUSTRALIAN

Less than half the cost of imported.

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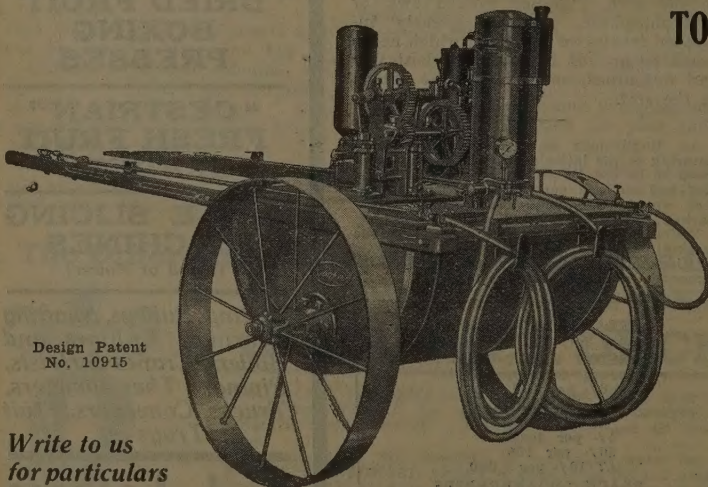
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TO THE MAN WHO KNOWS

That a good reliable spraying
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This *Cooper* Perfect
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is the Australian Fruitgrowers' Ideal.

It fills the long felt need for
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means of making the success of
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instead of a possibility, and
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The Fruit Trade

Every Firm should be Officially Represented

if only by a line or two—Our Readers are Your Clients. It is an able and wise introduction, and when you go through the fruit districts our Readers will have already known you through us. It pays best to send Consignments Regularly—Not Occasionally—to the best markets, by doing so you strike the rising and falling markets and make a fair average for the season.

A ten times wider and better distribution will ensure a ten times greater production, at more payable returns. It is large and valuable exports from settled industries that make a nation prosperous.—Ed. "F.W."

This Journal is the recognised representative of the FRUIT TRADE in the Southern Hemisphere.

REPRESENTATIVE FIRMS, FRUIT MERCHANTS, AGENTS, EXPORTERS.

Advertising in this Journal

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Sydney.
Chilton, F., City Fruit Markets.
Hopkins & Lipscombe, Fruit Exchange.
Rogers, F. H. G., Fruit Exchange.
Rule & Beavis, Fruit Exchange.
Wade, Noel, V., Royal Exchange (representing the North of England Fruit Brokers Ltd., Manchester, Eng.).
Wade, Capt. W. J., M.B.E., 8 Bridge St. (representing Port of Manchester).

VICTORIA.

Melbourne.
Coastal Farmers' Co-op. Society, Western Market.
Davis, J., Western Market.
Dennys, Lascelles Ltd., 509 Collins Street.
Lister, G., Western Market.
Mills & Co., J. B., 9 Queen Street (representing Nothard, Lowe & Wills Ltd., London).
Millis, A., & Sons, Western Markets.
McClure, Valentine & Co. Pty. Ltd., 49 William St.
Mumford, J. G., 449 Flinders Lane.
Pang & Co. Ltd., H. L., Little Bourke St.
Silbert, Sharp & Davies, Western Markets.
Slott & Son, T., Western Markets.
Tim Young & Co., Western Market.
Vear, F. W., 49 William Street.
Wade & Co., H. M., 439 Flinders Lane.
Woolf, G., Western Market.

QUEENSLAND.

Brisbane.
Barr, A. S., Fruit Exchange.
Collard & Mackay, Fruit Exchange.
Cooksley & Co., Fruit Exchange.
Finlayson & Son, Fruit Exchange.
Geeves, H. V., Fruit Exchange.
International Fruit and Produce Co., Fruit Exchange.
Robsons Ltd., Fruit Exchange.
W. J. Whitten & Co., Fruit Exchange.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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TASMANIA.

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Jones & Co. Ltd., H., Fruit Exporters.
Peacock & Co., W. D., Fruit Exporters, and at London.

NEW ZEALAND.

Auckland.
Radley & Co. Ltd., Fruit Auctioneers.
Turner & Growers Ltd., City Markets.
Dunedin.
Co-operative Fruitgrowers' of Otago Ltd.
Paterson, Thos., & Co., Vogel Street.
Central Produce Mart, Moray Place.

ENGLAND.

London.
Bradley, F. C. & Sons Ltd., 35 Bow Street, Covent Garden.
Da Costa, Gerald, Covent Garden.
Fruit & Produce Exchange of Great Britain.
Jacobs, E. & Sons, Covent Garden.
Landauer & Co., 39 Eastcheap.
Margeson & Co. Ltd., Covent Garden.
Moore & Co. Ltd., F. W., 8 Arthur Street, London Bridge.
Monro, Geo., Ltd., Covent Garden.
Nothard, Lowe & Wills Ltd., Tooley Street.
Ridley, Houlding & Co., Covent Garden.
Swann & Co., 3 Salter's Hall Court.

Hull.

London and North Eastern Railway: Australian representative, E. Bechervaise, Geelong, Vic.
White & Son Ltd.

Liverpool.

J. Adam, Son & Co.
Roger White & Co., 37 Victoria Street.

Manchester.

North of England Fruit Brokers Ltd., Port of Manchester (representative Capt. W. J. Wade, M.B.E., 8 Bridge St., Sydney, N.S.W.).

British and Australasian Market Reports

AUSTRALIAN APPLES AND PEARS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Cabled reports of sales of Australian fruit shipments received during May were as follows:—

London (9/5/23)—

Victorian and Western Australian Apples, per s.s. "Port Sydney": Tasmanian Cox's Orange Pippins, 10/- to 12/6 per case; New Yorks, 10/6 to 11/6; Duke of Clarence and Alexanders, 8/3 to 8/6. Western Australian shipments, per the s.s. "Diogenes" and the s.s. "Argyllshire" were Cleos., 12/6 to 13/-; Jon., 10/- to 11/-; Dunn's, 10/- Pears by the s.s. "Diogenes" were wasty and a large proportion had to be condemned. Pears ex the s.s. "Argyllshire" were Winter Nelis, 5/- to 6/6 tray; 8/- per ½ case; Josephines (trays), 4/6 to 7/-; (½ cases), 7/6 to 8/-; Bartlett's, 6/6 to 7/6 per tray.

Liverpool (9/5/23)—

Tasmanian Apples per the s.s. "Nestor" realized 11/6 to 13/9 for Cleos.; Adams, 9/6 to 10/6; Scarlet Nonpareils, 10/- to 10/9; Ribstones, 9/6 to 10/- per case.

London (14/5/23)—

New Zealand Apples per the s.s. "Armagh" and the s.s. "Pakeha" realized 10/- to 11/6 for Jon.; 12/- to 14/- Cleos. (exceptional quality, 15/-); Dunn's, 11/- to 12/6; King David, 9/- to 12/-; Cox's, 20/- to 22/6; Adams, 10/- to 12/6; Western Australian Jon., ex the s.s. "Berrima," 11/- to 11/6 per

case; Dunn's, 11/6 to 12/-; New Yorks, 12/- Pears, 11/- to 25/- Victorian Pears, per s.s. "Argyllshire" sold at 15/- to 20/- per case.

Hull (14/5/23)—

Western Australian Jon., ex the s.s. "Diogenes," realized 10/9 to 13/- per case; Cleos., 12/6 to 15/6; others, 10/- to 13/- Victorian Cleos. brought 14/9; others, 9/6 to 12/-

Liverpool (14/5/23)—

Tasmanian Cleos., per s.s. "Argyllshire," sold at 11/6; others, 9/6 to 11/- Western Australian Cleos., 13/- to 14/-; Jon., 11/- to 12/6. Victorian Jon., 10/3 to 12/6; Romes, 11/- to 12/-

London (23/5/23)—

New South Wales shipments, per s.s. "Narkunda," and s.s. "Jervis Bay," fetched 10/6 to 12/- Western Australia Apples, ex s.s. "Benalla," realized: Cleos. and Sturmers, 12/-; Dunn's and Jon., 11/-

Liverpool (23/5/23)—

Pears by the s.s. "Suevic," brought: Vicars, 5/9 to 10/6 per case; Napoleons, 7/3 to 11/9; Winter Nelis, 5/9 to 9/3 per tray.

London (26/5/23)—

West Australian Apples, ex the s.s. "Orvieto," realized: Jon., 12/- per case; Rokewoods, Romes and Nickjacks, 11/- to 11/6. West Australian Pears, per the s.s. "Benalla," arrived in poor condition and brought 12/- to 14/- per case for Vicars; Keifers, 14/-; Duchess, 5/6 to 6/- per ½ case; others, 3/- to 5/-

Liverpool (26/5/23)—

Tasmanian Apples by the s.s. "Suevic" realized: Cleos., 11/3 to 14/-; Jon., 12/- to 14/-; Sturmers, 10/3 to 11/9; Scarlets, 9/9 to 11/6; others, 9/9 to 13/-

Hull (26/5/23)—

Victorian Apples per s.s. "Port Bowen" realized: Cleos., 15/- to 16/- per case; Jon., 10/- to 12/9; Munro's, 11/- to 13/-; Dunn's, 12/- to 13/9; others, 10/- to 12/6.

London (21/5/23).

Messrs. T. Boss Walker Ltd., Hobart, reports under date 21/5/23:—

Tasmanian Apples by the s.s. "Jervis Bay," realized following prices:—

Cleo's, 11/6; Cox's, 10/6; Sturmers, 10/-; Scarlets, 10/-; King Pippins, 10/-; Jons, 11/-

The South Australian Trade Commissioner writes as follows from London on April 4:—

Dried Fruit.—Spot quotations are:—Currants—Pyrgos, 53/-; Amalias, 54/- to 55/-; Gulf and Panariti, 59/- to 62/-; Vestizza, 63/- to 70/-. The market is exceedingly firm, with holders confident of higher values ruling.

Sultanas.—Smyrna fruit is selling slowly, common, 65/- to 70/-; fair, 75/- to 78/-; good, 80/- to 85/- Afghan supply, fair; reds at 48/-, with yellow, 60/- to 65/-; Greteians have sold freely, 65/- to 70/-; with choice, 75/- to 80/-

Reliable reports just to hand from Asia Minor continue to confirm the dismal forecast made earlier concerning crop prospects in the Near East, particularly for Sultanas. The ravages of

war, together with the expulsion by Turkey of a large Christian civilian population from her territory, was in itself enough to dislocate the industry, but in addition atmospheric conditions during the winter have proved disastrous, the rainfall to date having exceeded 50 inches, as against a yearly average of 25 inches. Scarcity of labor exists everywhere, and the cost of cultivation has reached a high level. Vineyards have been neglected because of these factors, and forecasts go to show that barely 40 per cent. of the vines have been pruned or cultivated. This general dislocation of cultivation and production should play strongly into the hands of producers of Australian Sultanas, and it does look as if the coming season should prove remunerative.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Mr. F. Chilton, City Fruit Markets, reports under date 24/5/23:—

Queensland Fruits.—Pines, Smooths, 11/- to 14/- per case; Ripleys, 9/- to 11/- per case; Custard Apples, 3/- to 8/- per box. New South Wales Fruits.—Bananas, 20/- to 32/- per case; Oranges, 5/- to 9/- per bushel case; Navel Oranges, 8/- to 12/-; Mandarins, 7/- to 11/-; Lemons, 5/- to 10/-; Apples, Jonathan, 5/- to 8/-; Granny Smith, 8/- to 12/-; Small and inferior grades, 1/6 to 3/-; London Pippin, 5/- to 9/-; Pears, Cooking, 3/- to 6/-; Persimmons, 4/- to 7/- per half case; Tomatoes, 4/- to 10/-; Passions, 4/- to 12/-; Grapes, White, 5/- to 8/-; Cornichon, 8/- to 11/-; Victorian Fruits.—Apples, Jonathan, 6/- to 8/- per bushel case; London Pippin, 4/- to 8/-; Pears, Winter Cole, 7/- to 12/-; Winter Nelis, 6/- to 12/-; B. B., 8/- to 11/-; Howell, 9/- to 13/-; Tasmanian Fruits.—Apples, S.P.M. 6/- to 8/- per bushel case; S.T.P., 5/- to 7/-; F.C. 6/- to 7/6; Del. 6/- to 8/-; Jonathan, 6/- to 9/-; Pears, Winter Cole, 5/- to 7/- per half case; Winter Nelis, 5/- to 7/-; Josephine, 4/6 to 7/-; G.S. 4/- to 5/-; Napoleon, 4/- to 6/- per bushel case.

The demand for fruit generally is dull, no doubt due to wintry weather conditions affecting the consumption.

Choice qualities are maintaining

their recent prices fairly well, but medium and inferior lines are hard to sell.

VICTORIA.

Melbourne (28/5/23)

The following are the prices ruling at the Western Market.

Appes, Jonathans, 4/- to 8/6 per case; Cooking, 3/- to 6/-; Pineapples, 13/- to 20/-; Bananas, 22/- to 30/-; Tomatoes, 10/- to 12/-; Grapes, 12/- to 16/-; Lemons, 10/- to 14/-; Oranges, 12/- to 14/-; Navel, 14/- to 16/-; Pears, 2/- to 6/-; Passion Fruit, 18/- to 20/-; Quinces, 2/6 to 4/-.

The following prices were received from Mr. B. S. B. Cook, Secretary of Victorian Central Citrus Association, for the week ended 25/5/23:—

Victorian and Border Fruit.—Navel—S.A., 17/- to 18/-; Vic., 14/- to 16/-; Commons, Vic., 13/- to 15/-. Next week's prospects are that Navel will bring from 14/- to 16/-. The Navel are on the large size, which has made the market for Commons better. These brought from 7/6 to 10/- this week, with a decided downward tendency. A quantity of Lemons arrived green, which depressed the market.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Adelaide (26/5/23)

Apples—Eating, 9/- to 11/- per case; cooking, 7/- to 9/-; Grapes—Dark, 6/- to 8/-; White, 6/- to 8/-; Lemons—6/- to 7/-; Melons—Pie, 5/- to 6/- per cwt. Oranges—7/- to 10/- per case; Navel, locals, 14/- to 20/-; Pears—Eating, 10/- to 12/-; Quinces—2/6 to 3/-; Bananas—Queensland, to 35/-; Pines—24/-; Passion Fruit—to 30/-. Prices are without the costs of cases.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Perth (19/5/23)

Apples—Jonathans, a few 7/- to 8/9 per bushel case; others, to 5/6; Cleos., best, 5/- to 7/-; others, to 4/6; Dunn's, to 5/6; Granny Smiths, best, 8/- to 10/-; others to 6/6; Romes, to 5/6; King David, to 6/6. Pears—Bartlett's, flats,

5/- to 9/3; Winter Bartlett's, to 3/-; Keiffers, prime, to 8/6; others, to 3/-; Winter Nelis, Josephines, and Beurre, to 3/6; Vicars, to 2/6. Navel—Flats, best, 8/- to 11/-; others, to 6/-; Oranges—to 5/9. Lemons—Best, to 7/6; others, to 3/-; Passion Fruit—6/6 to 17/- per ¼ case. Persimmons—to 7/-.

QUEENSLAND.

Brisbane (22/5/23)

Apples—Jon., 8/- to 9/- per bushel case; special, 10/-; F.C., 10/- to 11/-; N.Y.P., 8/- to 9/-; Scarlet, 8/- to 9/-; Pears—Keiffers, 12/- to 14/-; M.C., 15/- to 16/-; W.C., 15/- to 16/-; W.N., 15/-; Oranges—Common, prime, 8/- to 9/-; others, 5/- to 6/-; Navel, choice, 14/- to 15/-; medium, 11/- to 12/-. Mandarins—Inferior, 9/- to 10/-; repacked, to 12/-; local Emperor, 12/- to 14/-; Scarlet, 10/- to 13/-; small, 8/-; Passion Fruit—6/6 to 8/- ½ bushel case; others, 4/- to 6/-; Custard Apples—to 5/-; Pawpaws—3/- to 4/-; Pines—Rough, 4/- to 6/- per case; smooth, 7/- to 8/-; Bananas—Cavendish, 7/6 to 18/- per case. Lemons—5/- to 6/-.

NEW ZEALAND.

Dunedin (14/5/23).

Messrs. Thos. Paterson & Co. report as follows:—

Mandarins now in keen demand; early consignments would realize 30/- per case. Only good, clean, well packed fruit should be sent. Pineapples.—Pineapples, short supply. First-class Pines would realize from 22/- to 28/- per case. Queensland Bananas.—We do not recommend consignments yet, as Island Bananas are still arriving, and only realizing 21/-. Loquats and Passion Fruit.—Consignments of these would be welcomed, as the market is barely supplied. Grapes.—We recommend consignments of good, large, choice varieties, but we do not advise very large consignments, as our market is easily glutted. For well selected fruit we could obtain from 9d. to 1/- per lb. Lemons.—Lemons are now in short supply, and we can recommend consignments. They would realize from 20/- to 25/- per case. Pacific Lemons are offering here at 35/-.

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